



Your Ref: COR 2021 004915

Our Ref: LEX 10013

Coroner Simon McGregor
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email only:

cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner McGregor

**FURTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED TO BE GIVEN TO THE CORONER INTO THE DEATH
OF ANGELO ANGELINO**

I refer to the Court's correspondence dated 10 May 2024 requesting the Department of Transport and Planning (the **Department**) provide an additional response addressing the following Coroner recommendation:

- II. I recommend that open-faced motorcycle helmets without jaw protection be strongly discouraged by VicRoads, the Transport Accident Commission, motorcycle clubs and motoring groups, for all motorcycle riders utilising highways and at any official motoring functions, or competitions.*

Response to recommendation

The Department would like to inform that regarding the recommendation above, under Victorian law, as outlined in the Road Safety Road Rules 2017, all motorcycle riders and passengers must wear an approved motorcycle helmet that is securely fitted and fastened.

- a) Approved motorcycle helmets must comply with the relevant minimum standards (these being AS 1698-1988, AS/NZS 1698:2006, or ECE 22.05 and any later version).
- b) There is a range of open-faced and full-faced motorcycle helmets that meet these relevant minimum standards which can be legally used on the road network.

The Department does however note the following actions that have been implemented in alignment with the Coroner's recommendation:

- c) The Department publishes information in the Transport Victoria website to inform riders on the importance of choosing a helmet and protective clothing with the highest safety rating.
- d) While open-faced motorcycle helmets are legal, the Department discourages the use of open-faced helmets which can leave the face exposed, with no protection for the chin and jaw in the event of a crash.
- e) The Department, along with the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), actively promote rider safety through contributions and participation in programs like MotoCAP and Consumer Rating and Assessment of Safety Helmets (CRASH), that encourage the use of high-safety rated protective gear and helmets.
- f) CRASH is a helmet testing program run by a consortium of government agencies and insurance companies, which share a common interest in improving motorcycle safety.
- g) CRASH provides consumers with independent and consistent information on the crash protection and the comfort level provided by the helmet, rated from zero to five stars.
 - i. Of the 26 open-faced helmets rated, 88% have a star rating of 2 or below for protection; none scored a four or five-star protection rating.
 - ii. Of the 79 full-faced helmets, only 8% of helmets have a star rating of 2 or below for protection; 33% scored a four or five-star protection rating.
 - iii. These results indicate full-faced helmets generally scored higher star protection rating and are considered safer than open-faced helmets.
- h) The CRASH helmet testing results are published via motocap.com.au website to help riders pick the safest option.
- i) In collaboration with the TAC and Victoria Police, the Department actively promotes the use of high safety rated protective gear, including helmets by directing riders to consumer websites through learning material, and distributing promotional pamphlets at motoring events including the Motorcyclist Awareness Month and the Phillip Island MotoGP.

Along with the above, the Department will be implementing the following actions which align with the Coroner's recommendation, including:

- j) The Department will work closely with the TAC to provide consistent messages to riders about the importance of good protective gear and continue to explore ways to further support the recommendation and discourage open-face helmets without jaw protection.
- k) The Department will use its social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube) to promote the importance of high quality motorcycle protective clothing including helmets and shares supporting rider safety messaging published in TAC's spokes.com.au website.

- l) The Department will review information published on its website to further emphasise the benefits of choosing a full-faced helmet for enhanced protection.

Please do not hesitate to contact James Soo, Manager Vehicle Safety and Technology on [REDACTED] if you have any questions about the contents of this letter or if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Marcelo Vidales
Head of Road Safety Victoria
Department of Transport and Planning

30/08/2024