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## **Media Release – For Immediate Release:**

### **Australian Riders Support ‘Six Times Safer’ Motorcycle Lane Filtering Campaign.**

Australia's motorcyclists have shown record breaking support through social media and online forums for a brand new campaign to legitimise motorcycle lane filtering. The campaign was launched in Melbourne on the 7<sup>th</sup> October by Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, the Australian Motorcycle Council and the Victorian Motorcycle Council.

The campaign's Youtube clip: <http://youtu.be/wSRY7RxMF1g>, whose production was funded by the sale of "Stop SMIDSY" t-shirts, has attracted over 28000 views in its first week.

Lane filtering is the practice of a motorcycle moving safely between stationary and slow moving lanes of traffic. Evidence indicates that it improves motorcycle safety, reduces congestion and reduces the environmental impact of heavy traffic. However legal ambiguity in Victoria clouds its legitimacy.

A common place practice throughout the world, notably in the UK and California, European evidence shows that lane filtering is six times safer for riders than remaining in stationary traffic.

"Once you take a longer look, the many benefits of lane filtering for all road users are inescapable." said Rob Salvatore, Chair of the Victorian Motorcycle Council (VMC),

"Same direction" crashes (typically rear-enders) are also the single largest cause of rider hospitalisation in both metro and greater Melbourne.

Rider groups claim that explicitly allowing motorcycles to lane filter moves them out of the direct line of conflict and would be expected to drastically reduce rider injury.

"This is a true road safety measure which takes full advantage of the unique characteristics of powered two wheelers and it's backed by evidence." Rob Salvatore said.

A recent Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry endorsed the call for lane filtering, recommending that motorcycling and government stakeholders work together to legitimise this already common place practice for the greater good of the fastest growing road user sector.

Victorian riders through the Victorian Motorcycle Council, are calling on the State Government and road authorities to take a longer look at motorcycle lane filtering and immediately begin to work towards its full legalisation and implementation.

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#### **Background:**

VMC is Victoria's peak motorcycling advocacy body and is a member of Australia's peak motorcycling body, the Australian Motorcycle Council. For more information regarding this press release or the VMC, please call:

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