



7 May 2010

The Hon. Frank Sartor MP
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Level 35 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Vehicle Noise

I write again to request action to prevent vehicle noise impacts for inner city residents. Residents continue to contact me about noise impacts of vehicles and especially motorcycles, late at night and on weekends. Noise reverberates along the streets and between high rise apartment buildings, affecting large numbers of people.

The Department of Climate Change, Environment and Water (DECCW) is primarily responsible for enforcing vehicle noise controls. I have repeatedly asked for increased resources for enforcement and an improved reporting process. Apartment residents cannot be expected to get to street level to identify and report noisy vehicles, or to get out of bed late at night when woken by loud noise to identify which vehicle is responsible in order to report it for possible future investigation.

Monthly joint operations coordinated by Kings Cross Kings Cross Police and the City of Sydney trial road restriction in Cowper Wharf Road on weekend nights have had some impact on noisy vehicles in this precinct, and similar efforts had to be put in place to prevent these problems in Hickson Road Millers Point. These operations are costly, do not prevent problems and are not a long term solution.

Local authorities cannot manage noisy vehicle impacts with a weak regulatory system that does not provide for effective enforcement.

I support community calls for better vehicle noise controls and increased enforcement, and called for a comprehensive strategy to prevent noise impacts from modified vehicles and traffic congestion late at night. There should be increased DECCW resources, unannounced checks with escalating penalties including loss of points and loss of licence for persistent offenders. Businesses that illegally modify vehicles should receive serious fines and lose their operating licence.

Could you please:

- ***Review vehicle noise controls particularly for motorcycles;***
- ***Review enforcement procedures***
- ***Increase DECCW enforcement of noisy vehicles; and***
- ***Inform me what action you will take?***

Yours sincerely

Clover Moore
Member for Sydney