



[www.fortlyttonmxclub.com](http://www.fortlyttonmxclub.com)

20 February 2007

Mr. Ross Vast MP  
Federal Member for

To Mr. Vasta,

1<sup>st</sup>- I would like to introduce myself to you, My name is Kenneth Herson, the facility manager to the Fort Lytton Moto-cross club (F.L.M.X).

The F.L.M.X club provides a venue for people to ride Moto-cross bikes for either practice, racing, coaching. Being such a high number of rider's in Brisbane and a ever increasing growth due to the acceptance in the community as motocross being a family sport and the anti- hooning laws, we wanted to be able to cater for the demand. Our first objective we put in place is a marketing strategy aiming at "Family Fun" with 3 motocross tracks to choose from.

- 1.- one for the kids to ride as Motorcycling Queensland issues licenses to kids from the age of 4,
- 2.- one for the adults to ride,
- 3.- one for the Mini bikes. We found this to be a great incentive for families to begin there dirt riding. As it is safe, supervised, but most of all "fun". Our second objective is supplying dirt bikes for the public to ride, either for juniors or seniors with or with out Motorcycling Queensland license. We have introduced a mini bike program on a purpose built track to cater for the demand. We found this activity a great way to bring families together and the numbers of members have grown each year.

Sadly though, over the last several years the number of places for families to enjoy participating in off-road motorcycling is disappearing. There was 4 clubs in Brisbane now F.L.M.X is the only remaining club operating. Also with the new anti-honing laws recently introduced, rider numbers are certainly on the increase and this can be seen with the amount of new rider license applications submitted to Motorcycling Queensland.

Now, to our problem, we are currently established and have been for a number of years on land owned by the Port of Brisbane who have issued a one year permit to occupy and is renewable each year. The port of Brisbane newly appointed property manager Mrs. Deborah Wood has indicated our permit will only be extended for a short term this year as the Port has plans to develop the site. I'm sure you would agree, the Brisbane community needs a location and needs a long term lease for the sport to have a legal future in Brisbane.

There are a lot of businesses that will have financial problems if a place like F.L.M.X club is closed. Brisbane has always been a breeding ground for prominent Moto-cross riders around the world. Over the last 3 years Andrew McFarlane placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world championships which are held in Europe.

Michael Burn who is placed top 5 in the American 2006 Supercross Championships. Stefan Merriman placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Enduro World Championships. In the off season these riders plus others from all over the world come home to F.L.M.X to test parts, practice and race.

The Port of Brisbane has been very generous to the club over the last number of years and we believe it as a ongoing responsibility to the community to stay focused and support family orientated activities. I'm sure you would agree, the community would be grateful for riders to participate in a designated riding area, instead of crown land, picnic parks and bush reserves near residential areas. The F.L.M.X club is part of the Brisbane community just like the Port of Brisbane. We feel together (F.L.M.X and Port of Brisbane) we supply a venue for families to come together and enjoy the great outdoors. We are willing to work together and achieve a solution to this community issue.

Our problem is a community problem, that is why we are asking for your assistance just like the Hon. Paul Lucas MP. for his input to help resolve our permit issues or find a new location.

As we await your reply with interest, I have supplied my direct contact number so we can work together to achieve a result.

Kind regards

Ken Herson 0412 813 763 (Secretary, Facility Manager)  
Jody Herson (Treasurer)  
Andrew Christie (President)