



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

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14 March 2008

The Premier
Parliament House
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Ms Bligh

Re: The Queensland Driver's Licence

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the country's leading advocacy organisation in the privacy field. The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties (QCCL) is doubtless well-known to you.

Around November 2003, the APF and QCCL both provided input to the Department of Transport regarding its original licence proposal. Roger Clarke also met with the Department's officers, at their request, in his personal capacity as an eBusiness consultant, and provided an additional submission. The submissions identified many serious concerns with the proposal as formulated at that time.

Since then, the Department has made almost no contact with either organisation. The impression gained from media reports was that the project was progressing very slowly, and perhaps not at all.

However, the Australian Financial Review reported in a front page article on Thursday 13 March that "Mr Rudd pointed to Anna Bligh's plan to replace millions of laminated drivers' licences with smartcards by 2009". On looking for more detailed information on this new development, all that we could quickly find was a brief statement, dated 11 February 2008, at:

http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/Home/Licensing/Driver_licence/New_qld_driver_licence/

Contrary to the impression conveyed by the AFR's reporters, this approach is not a reliable sign that such projects can "succeed without a widespread outcry over privacy".

We were contacted by the media at a very early stage in the development of the AFR's story. Currently, if we are asked a question about our position on the Queensland Driver's Licence, we will have to say that we have not been consulted since the very first iteration almost 5 years ago. Further, we fear that – in view of the exclusion of privacy advocates from such consultative processes as may be taking place – the project may well be seriously privacy-invasive.

Would you please arrange for the relevant person to provide more substantial information to us, and to ensure that consultation is conducted with relevant organisations on a much more reliable basis than has been the case to date.

Yours sincerely

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