



Queensland
Government

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

24 FEB 2019

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Our ref: PET 30901

Your ref: A417120

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 2976-18 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr David Batt MP, Member for Bundaberg on 12 February 2019 about displaying gender on driver licences.

Queensland removed the gender indicator from the Adult Proof of Age Card on 18 March 2016, and all other photo identification cards on 1 October 2016. At the same time, the height indicator was removed from all driver licence cards, including industry authority cards, and marine licence indicator cards. There was no cost to taxpayers to remove gender and height indicators from Queensland driver licences.

The primary reason for making the change was as a result of changes in 2013 to the Commonwealth *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* that provided protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status. Consultation was undertaken with the Queensland Police Service (QPS); Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; the Australian Transgender Support Association of Queensland Inc; the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland and the LGBTI Legal Service Inc, which all indicated their support for the changes.

The removal of the gender indicator from the Queensland driver licence brought Queensland into line with all the other Australian states and territories that have either never displayed gender on their driver licence cards, or removed it more than 10 years ago. The majority of Queensland driver licences currently in circulation do not display gender or height indicators.

Self-reported information like gender and height are no longer necessary to identify a person. It is for this reason the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) also removed other personal, self-reported information, such as eye colour, hair colour and complexion from application forms. TMR relies on facial recognition technology and evidence of identity documents to confirm a person's identity on initial licence applications, and at renewal. In addition, the QPS has access to TMR digital images and licence information through their Q-Lite tablet devices.

TMR acknowledges that the petitioners' believe the gender indicator is part of a person's identity, however, a person's gender has no bearing on their eligibility to obtain a driver licence and is not relied on to verify a person's identity. Therefore, there are no plans to reinstate the gender indicator on Queensland driver licences.

Gender information is collected and recorded in the licensing database by TMR for reporting and statistical purposes (for example, to classify road safety research and other data by gender). It is for this reason that gender is still collected at the time of initial application.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MARK BAILEY', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads