Early in 2020 the Premier and Minister for Transport announced a new concession for registration of modified classic cars would be introduced, with details to be advised.

The Council of Motoring Clubs (CMC) represents the interests of over 100 clubs and over ten thousand individual members. CMC representatives met with the Minister’s office staff and Department of Transport staff to offer support for the new category and at that meeting were given an absolute assurance that the new category would not adversely affect the Code 404 Concession (for unmodified older vehicles), which has operated successfully since 1964.

Since that time, the Minister’s office and DoT have announced a raft of changes which significantly diminish what Code 404 offers to club members – in the name of conformity with the new code C4C (for modified cars) and bureaucratic oversight requirements.

The main areas of change are: Significant reduction to the freedom for private use of a vehicle to 30 days in a year. This for example, means where someone might have freely taken their vehicle on a test run (within a restricted 30km radius limit) to check oil, tyre pressures and refuel in preparation for a club event, they would now have to use one of their 30 private annual use days, and register electronically in advance with their club to do so.

The proposed requirement for clubs to maintain logs of all Code 404 vehicle use will increase the workload considerably which will create difficulties for club administration. A band-aid solution offered has been the option of a vehicle owner maintaining logbooks. However when the DoT requests details of use from a club, there will be a tremendous amount of work required to produce this from a combination of electronic logs and individual member logbooks.

The third major area of concern is use of vehicles in multi-club events becoming severely restricted.

The 30 days of private use and 60 days of club events is derived directly from people lobbying for the modified vehicle category requesting 90 days of use. This has no bearing in any way on Code 404 and should not be applied.

The car club movement is absolutely not supportive of these changes, with many feeling the considerable additional workload for clubs and the additional restrictions to use of vehicles is unreasonable. Especially in light of the commitment that there would be no detrimental changes…

The CMC members resolved unanimously at a General Meeting to request of the Minister and Department that the suggested changes be revoked. Representatives for the CMC Clubs have since met with the Minister’s and DoT’s representatives and written to express the dismay that clubs and individuals feel about these proposals, and only slight changes are being considered.

Individuals and clubs are very upset by this. We implore you to lobby the Minister for Transport to apply pressure to the DoT to reverse these measures and return Code 404 to the existing system which has operated successfully for all parties without any problems.