

December 2017

Since 2012 I have travelled overseas to Europe & United Kingdom on numerous occasions and I have taken special interest in the movement of vehicles on the multi lane motorways. On one occasion in Europe I was informed as well as noticed that most vehicles adhered to the doctrine of keeping right unless overtaking, of particular note was the management of HEAVY VEHICLES, to wit on motorways of 3 or more lanes heavy vehicles were not allowed to travel in the far left lanes unless there was an emergency or were directed by authorised persons. On my first visit to Europe I never witnessed any heavy vehicles including Buses, Semi Trailers, Rigid or Cranes etc use the far left lane and on subsequent visits it has been the same.

Speed.

On motorways there are point to point & speed monitoring cameras everywhere and it was noticeable that most heavy vehicles obeyed the speed limit & **all** kept to the right, most of the passenger vehicles kept to the speed limit & mostly kept the far left lane vacant unless overtaking.

Heavy vehicles have varying speed limit restrictions imposed but the maximum speed limit is 100kph

With both these scenarios the traffic moved freely & at the posted speed limit.

UK 2017

I spent approximately 4 weeks self drive around the United Kingdom from Scotland to Wales to England and on the motorways similar restrictions are in place except their speed limits are in Imperial and they drive on the left compared to Europe.

Whilst these comparisons are minor there are vehicles travelling along the motorways which come over daily from parts of Europe and have no difficulties in traversing the United Kingdom and obeying the rules and regulations.

Similar to Europe the heavy vehicles I witnessed travelling along the motorways were very courteous and kept to the posted limit and kept left, never did I see any heavy vehicle in the right hand lanes.

If this can work as it does in these countries why can't we here in Australia adopt and enforce the same rules and regulations.

I grew up in Sydney NSW and in all that time from the age of 18years I have been driving passenger vehicles & light vehicles from the Sydney CBD through to the Central Coast, South Coast & Blue Mountains so I have travelled quite extensively around that great metropolitan area, I have seen the area grow from single lane roads to multilane motorways BUT I have not witnessed the improvement to the traffic because of this and one of the reasons for this in my opinion is that KEEP LEFT unless overtaking is not enforced and that heavy vehicles constantly crowd the RIGHT hand lane on multilane motorways which in turn has a knock on effect to the other motorists as they get held up behind these motorists that refuse to KEEP LEFT.

I really believe that similar rules and regulations that work so well most of the time in these overseas countries should be implemented and enforced here in AUSTRALIA.

Two years ago I relocated to the South East Qld area known as North Lakes, not far from where the 2018 Commonwealth Games will take place, the Qld Authorities have in their wisdom made some parts of the motorways restricted for heavy vehicles in that they the heavy vehicles cannot use the

far right lane, a trial has already commenced so that the heavy vehicle drivers can get accustomed to the new procedure in preparation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

I have previously drafted correspondence to the National Transport Commission in regards to this situation as well as other government agencies in NSW & Qld without any response.

I believe motorists both of heavy and passenger vehicles would benefit from the implementation of these rules and regulations, for instance in NSW in the metropolitan area if there is a vehicle CRASH, YES CRASH not accident* on any of the major arteries going to or from the Sydney centre then there is chaos, most of the time these crashes happen is either because people get frustrated because motorists will not keep left, (which is difficult in peak hours) as well, as I have witnessed so many times, heavy vehicles enter the motorways and proceed directly to the far right lane where they stay which in turn slows that lane down and then collisions occur because motorists get frustrated. Similarly in South East Qld if there is an incident on any of the motorways heading into Brisbane CBD it affects all arteries.

I implore all Governments to investigate implementation of these rules and regulations as well as enforcing the policing of said rules and regulations

Finally: *accidents are unavoidable. Inattention, frustration, error, fatigue are all causes of collisions or crashes and are avoidable.

Yours Sincerely

Ronald Bright

12 February 2018