

Pontiac Car Club - Concessional 'Club' Registration

Queensland Transport's Special Interest Vehicle (SIV) registration is a concessional registration scheme for registered operators of special categories of vehicles, including motor vehicles, motorbikes and trailers that have limited use on the road. The types of vehicles eligible to participate in the scheme include both right-hand drive (RHD) and left-hand drive (LHD) which fall within one of the following categories:

- **Classic & Historic vehicles** at least 30 years old.
- **Vintage vehicles** manufactured between 1 January 1919 and 31 December 1930.
- **Veteran vehicles** manufactured before 1919.
- **Historic Ambulances and Firefighting Equipment**
- **Street Rods (Hot Rods)** - Vehicles that have been modified for safe road use and have a body and frame built before 1949, or is a replica and is fitted with a modification plate, code LH9. Vehicles fitted with a modification plate, code LH10, are for open registration and are not entitled to a Special Interest Vehicle Concession.

Eligibility conditions for Concessional Registration

Registered operators must meet specific eligibility requirements at the initial application for concessional registration and then continue to comply with the conditions when using their vehicle. These special conditions are:

Club Membership: Registered operators are expected to retain current membership of a properly constituted car club or association. Evidence of current membership must be provided by the club or association at the time of application for a concession. This is achieved by the Dating Certificate.

Dating Certificate: The vehicle will need to be inspected by a club official of a properly constituted car club or association to certify that the vehicle was manufactured not less than 30 years ago. The certificate, which must be on club letterhead or other official club documentation, will need to be presented when applying for concessional registration.

The vehicle needs to be positively identified using the full description and VIN or other unique ID as documented on the registration certificate. It may be necessary to verify the month of construction to determine if the car is in fact 30 years old.

Club Requirements: Many clubs impose requirements for the issuing of a dating certificate. Generally, they require participation criteria to be met. Examples include a requirement to attend six events in the first twelve months and no granting until second year of membership.

The Pontiac Car Club have a moderate view, requiring at least three event or meeting participation for members within the Greater Brisbane area (Gold Coast to Caboolture, to Ipswich in the west). Outside of this area, requests will be granted immediately, as participation is difficult due to the distance from club activities.

Pontiac Car Club members may also concessionally register non-Pontiacs they own under the scheme. These vehicles have to be over 30 years old, and used in accordance with the scheme requirements.

Registration alteration process

The Dating Certificate (provided by the club) is to be taken to a Queensland Transport Customer Service Centre, along with the current Registration Certificate. An amount of refund is then calculated, based on the remaining unexpired portion of the paid registration. If this is at renewal time, there will not be any portion unexpired. The refund is credited to your registration account, which may result in registration not having to be paid for several years.

For new registrations, the dating certificate is to be supplied along with the documentation normally required at this time.

Current annual concessional registration totals \$166.30 for 12 months (if paid on time). This is a flat fee, not dependant on the number of cylinders. It is made up of \$59.85 registration, \$62.00 CTP Insurance and \$44.45 Traffic Improvement Fee. No further concessions apply.

Note : if the fee is higher than this, it is probably due to the CTP Class not being changed. CTP Class 5 applies to concessionally registered vehicles. The problem of an incorrect CTP class has occurred recently to a number of vehicles being transferred to concessional registration.

Please also advise your vehicle insurer of the change of registration. Substantial discounts apply with the use of concessional registration. Some insurers also offer discounts for club membership.

New registration plates and a new registration label will also be issued (see below).

Identification of Concessionally Registered Vehicles

Vehicles registered under this scheme are normally issued with 'S' plates, of regular Queensland size with 'S' followed by 5 digits, white lettering on a black base. The series commenced at S 10000 and is currently in the 18000's.

However, owners may instead use PPQ issued personalised plates of various forms, either initially or at a later time. These include the 'retro' black and white plates (N,O,P as first letter), allowing older vehicles to retain their originally issued plates.

Registration labels, although of the same format and colour as the regular labels, are distinguished by concessional use wording and a perimeter cross hatching.

Renewal of Concessional Registration

You will be sent a renewal notice as per normal. Queensland Transport cannot ask you for proof of your current club membership, due to privacy laws. They are well aware of a

minority who merely join a club for one year to get discounted registration. This is one reason for the existence of many club's participation requirements, in an attempt to deter this minority.

Some clubs have indicated that they keep a register of dating certificates they issue, and notify Queensland Transport when a member does not renew. However, clubs are not required to do this, and Queensland Transport does not follow these up, as for example, the registered owner may have joined another club.

Use of Concessionally Registered Vehicles

Vehicles registered under the Special Interest Vehicle Scheme have certain limitations placed on their use. Registered operators must agree that they will confine their vehicle's use to:

- Participating in rallies organised by properly constituted car clubs.
- Participating in processions for which a Special Event Permit has been issued under the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Regulation 1995.
- Exhibiting the vehicle in displays, fetes or similar functions conducted for religious, charitable or educational purposes.
- Use for ceremonial purposes involving immediate family members, for example weddings or school formals (immediate family means parents or carers and their dependents and generally does not refer to extended family relationships such as nephews and nieces), provided this is not done for a fee or reward.
- Preparing for, proceeding to, and returning from the above activities.
- Vehicles are not permitted to carry a load except in circumstances where the load is part of a display which directly relates to the authenticity of the vehicle, e.g. hay bales or empty drums.
- Road testing within a 15 kilometre radius from the place where the vehicle is garaged.
- Travel in order to have the vehicle repaired. There is no distance restriction in these circumstances. However such travel must be reasonable and openly justifiable by the vehicle driver.

If a Special Interest Vehicle is being used for any other purpose, the registered operator either needs to upgrade to full registration or carry a letter of authorisation from Queensland Transport for that particular use.

There is no option for a temporary upgrade to full registration (e.g. for unlimited use on a particular weekend). Unregistered vehicle permits are not applicable and the vehicle would have to be returned to full registration. It may be a better option to use another vehicle not on concessional registration.

The above are conditions relating to historic vehicles. Street rods include an additional use - events sanctioned by the Australian Street Rod Federation (ASRF). As the majority of our cars are not registered under the street rod provisions, this use is not considered here.

Penalties for misuse

Section 72(3) of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Vehicle Registration) Regulation 1999 states :

A person who is granted a concessional registration for a vehicle must notify the chief executive in writing a) before using the vehicle for a purpose other than the purpose for which the concession was granted; or b) within 14 days of either 1) a material change in the circumstances under which the concession was granted or 2) the sale or other transfer of the vehicle.

The State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2000 provides for a penalty of 1.6 points. Each penalty point is currently valued at \$100 (from 1/1/09). Thus the fine applicable is \$160. No license demerit points apply, and the concession is not forfeited.

Common breaches include use of the vehicle for going to work, going to the shops or other transport purposes, recreational use not associated with a car club run or car show, and hire use for school formals, weddings etc.

The other major problem with use outside of the scheme boundaries is that the car is effectively unregistered. In the event of an accident, your insurance may be invalid. Remember your insurance is already discounted in consideration with the boundaries of the scheme (if you have notified your insurer and have taken advantage of the discount). CTP is also discounted, so you may not be covered here also.

If you are doubtful as to whether your use of the vehicle is acceptable, then don't.

In addition, if your club membership has lapsed and you are no longer financial, the insurance company may deem that you are not complying with the scheme and therefore not registered. They may ask you to provide proof of current membership at a time of claim.

Interpretation of allowable vehicle use

1) Participating in rallies organised by properly constituted car clubs : this covers what is termed 'club runs or events'.

Note that this can be any club's runs - not just the club which you are a member of, or the one who processed your club registration application.

For the Pontiac Car Club, all listings on our Events Calendar are deemed to be club runs for the purposes of club registration. These are divided into 5 classes :

Class 1) Monthly meeting club runs : our first Wednesday of the month night meeting

Class 2) Monthly outing club runs : our weekend monthly outing

Class 3) Special club runs : long distance run e.g. nationals, or a one-off significant event

Class 4) Regular event optional club runs : regular Friday night cruises, drive-in nights etc.

Class 5) Other events (optional club runs) : other car events not already covered e.g. shows, swap meets. Note that in the case of a washout of the monthly outing, one of these may be substituted.

You will need to have a copy of the club advice of the run in your car - either in a club magazine, an event flyer, a printout from the club website, or a club issued 'authority to travel'. The latter are used on short notice where other documentation is not available.

Interstate use on club runs (e.g. to Nationals) is allowed, to which the same Queensland rules apply - not the rules of the similar schemes in the other states.

2) Exhibiting the vehicle in displays, fetes or similar functions conducted for religious, charitable or educational purposes : this covers all car shows and similar functions. These are usually all included in our club run listing. If not, they are covered here.

3) Use for ceremonial purposes involving immediate family members, for example weddings or school formals : this has been extended recently to include grandchildren. Use in this area must not be for any hire fee. Limousine operators have been known to complain to authorities about concessionally registered cars being used in this role.

4) Road testing within a 15 kilometre radius from the place where the vehicle is garaged. Road testing is just that - not a trip to the shops. It would include refuelling and stops for other car requirements.

5) Travel in order to have the vehicle repaired. This would usually be within a reasonable distance of 'home'. It would be handy to have a business card, quote, parts etc. to justify the trip.

Summary

Registration concessions for car enthusiasts have existed in Queensland for over fifty years. Their continuing availability will depend on clubs and members abiding by the requirements. In Queensland, the onus is particularly on the individual club members (registered owners).

Links

A SIV scheme flyer is available on the QT website at :

http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/Home/Registration/Motor_vehicles/Street_rods_and_vintage_cars/Street_rods_and_vintage_cars

Parts of this pertaining to our club have been included in this document.

Personalised Plates Qld : <http://www.ppq.com.au/PlateInfo.aspx>