

## Pontiac Car Club - Concessional 'Club' Registration

The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads 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, with Transport also now requiring to sight the applicant's club membership card with a future date of expiry.

**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.

The Pontiac Car Club uses the standard Queensland Historic Motoring Council (QHMC) Dating Certificate which is approved and familiar to Department of Transport and Main Roads officers. It is a two page document, the second page containing the conditions of the concession and is retained by the member. The first page is provided to Transport.

**Club Requirements:** Many clubs impose requirements for the issuing of a dating certificate. In the past, many have required participation criteria to be met, while it is more common now for a fee to be levied. Examples of participation criteria include a requirement to attend six events in the first twelve months and no granting until the second year of membership.

The Pontiac Car Club changed its policy in September 2019 to that of a flat fee per application, in line with many other clubs. Members agreed for this to be \$50 at that point. A new application form has been created to support the process, with a quoted processing time of two to three weeks to be allowed for.

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 Department of Transport and Main Roads Customer Service Centre, along with the current Registration Certificate and your Club Membership Card. The latter must have an expiry date in the future. 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.

Current annual concessional registration totals \$234.90 for 12 months (if paid on time). This is a flat fee, not dependant on the number of cylinders. It is made up of \$98.25 registration, \$75.80 CTP Insurance and \$60.85 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 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 will also be issued (see below).

### **Identification of Concessionally Registered Vehicles**

Vehicles registered under this scheme are normally issued with 'S' plates, of rectangular 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 30000's. A 'US' size baseplate is also now available, and is recommended for American cars. Their numbers start at S 50000.

Owners may also 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.

## **Renewal or Cancellation of Concessional Registration**

You will be sent a renewal notice as per normal. Department of Transport and Main Roads do not ask you for proof of your current club membership. You either pay the six or twelve month renewal fee as for any other registration.

Clubs are required to keep a register of the dating certificates they issue, and details from your application and dating certificate will be added to the Pontiac Car Club's register. In the event that your membership lapses, you must notify the Department of Transport and Main Roads in writing within 14 days of this fact. The vehicle will then revert to the full registration scheme as per the process outlined on:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/registration/fees/concession/special-interest/removing-concession>

If you decide to become a financial member again, you can then apply for a new dating certificate to return onto the club registration scheme.

If you leave the Pontiac Car Club and join another club who issues club registration, then you should apply for a dating certificate from that club to enable you to be entered in their register. From the Pontiac Car Club's perspective once your membership lapses then you should no longer be our register and hence your club registration should be cancelled.

Club registration automatically cancels on the sale of the vehicle or it's deregistration. Sale of the vehicle to another club member will require a new dating certificate to be issued.

## **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 or events (including an 'impromptu event') organised by an incorporated vehicle club or sanctioned by the Australia Street Rod Federation (ASRF).
- participating in processions for which a Special Events Permit has been issued under the Transport Operations (Road Use Management–Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015.
- exhibiting the vehicle in displays, fetes or similar functions conducted for religious, charitable or educational purposes.
- ceremonial purposes (such as weddings, formals, funerals) involving immediate and de facto family members, or as part of a sanctioned incorporated club event, provided this is not done for fee or reward. Immediate and de facto family means parents, grandparents, sons, daughters, grandchildren, adopted children and adopted grandchildren, but not extended family members such as aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces.

- preparing for, proceeding to, and returning from the above activities.
- direct travel to and from an approved inspection station to get a safety certificate or certificate of inspection before offering the vehicle for sale.
- travel in order to have the vehicle repaired. There is no distance restriction, however such travel must be reasonable and justifiable by the vehicle operator.
- road testing within a 30km radius from the place where the vehicle is garaged or is being repaired. The purpose of the travel must be to road test the vehicle following repair or restoration, or for general vehicle maintenance and not for any other purpose. This does not include use as an everyday means of transport. A passenger may travel in your vehicle to assist with road testing-only if your vehicle can legally carry passengers. (the distance had been 15km up to November 2022).

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 Department of Transport and Main Roads 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 will be a better option to use another vehicle not on concessional registration.

When operating a concessionally registered vehicle, it is advisable to have your current club membership card, as well as a copy of information pertaining to the event you are attending. This may be in the form of a club magazine with the event listed, printout of our 'e-news' outing promotion, show flyer, or a copy of the club's website calendar of events. In the case of 'impromptu events' detailed below, the club will issue an Authority which is to be carried.

### **Interpretation of allowable vehicle use**

1) participating in rallies or events (including an 'impromptu event') organised by an incorporated vehicle club or sanctioned by the Australia Street Rod Federation (ASRF).

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, our rallies or events can be classified as:

- a) club-initiated or
- b) member-initiated

Club-initiated runs are those organised by the club and advertised via either the club e-news or listed on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/qldpontiac>). Clubs runs are no longer listed in the Pontiac Club national magazine 'Torque' due to the long lead time required. 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.

Member-initiated runs are those organised by a member using the facility on the club website. These are generally held at very short notice, to enable the member's vehicle to be used outside of the normal allowable use guidelines. See the separate section on this subject for more details.

ASRF sanctioned events can be found by referring to their web listing, and are divided into specific date events, monthly events and weekly events. For full details of these see : <https://www.asrf.org.au/qld/>

2) Exhibiting the vehicle in displays, fetes or similar functions conducted for religious, charitable or educational purposes : this covers all car shows and similar displays where a group of vehicles congregate together.

3) Use for ceremonial purposes involving immediate family members, for example weddings or school formals : this has been extended 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 30 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 advisable to have a business card, quote, parts etc. to justify the trip, and Police may wish to contact the repairer to determine if the use is 'bona-fide'.

### **Member-initiated Rally or Event**

While the club has always had the ability to authorise the use of any club-registered vehicle for a purpose outside of the normal conditions, the reform undertaken in 2019 was to automate this process to reduce the administration involved.

Application is made via the club website at [http://www.qldpontiac.org.au/?page\\_id=16](http://www.qldpontiac.org.au/?page_id=16)

Please read the contents of this page carefully, then advance to the application page to fill out the necessary details. Once this is checked and submitted, your rally is logged with the club, and an acknowledgement in the form of a Run Authority sent to your nominated email address. This should be kept in your vehicle for the duration of the rally and sent to other participants if more than one vehicle is involved.

### **Penalties for misuse**

Section 239 (2) of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021 states:

The registered operator must not use the vehicle, or permit the vehicle to be used, in a way that would make the registered operator ineligible for the concessional registration of the vehicle.

Maximum Penalty - 20 Penalty units (category 1 vehicle or a motorised caravan).

The value of a Penalty unit under the Penalties and Sentences (Penalty Unit Value) Amendment Regulation 2022 is currently \$143.75. Thus the maximum fine applicable is \$2875. No license demerit points apply, but Section 238 (b) states that contravention of a usage provision makes the registered operator of a concessionally registered vehicle ineligible to continue the concession.

In addition Section 242 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021 states: The registered operator of a concessionally registered special interest vehicle for which the chief executive has imposed a condition under section 230(3) must not use the vehicle, or permit the vehicle to be used, in contravention of the condition. The penalty is the same as above. These conditions are as detailed on pages 3 and 4 of this guide.

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 outing 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 are therefore not registered. They may ask you to provide proof of current membership at a time of claim. The Pontiac Car Club will not, under any circumstances, backdate a lapsed membership.

## 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

SIV scheme details are available on the Department of Transport and Main Roads website at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/registration/fees/concession/special-interest>

Parts of this pertaining to the Pontiac Car Club have been included in this document.

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

Pontiac Car Club Member-Initiated Run : [http://www.qldpontiac.org.au/?page\\_id=16](http://www.qldpontiac.org.au/?page_id=16)