

MEDIA RELEASE
24.08.18



MOTORCYCLE TRACK DAY – BARBAGALLO RACEWAY, 24TH AUGUST 2018

The West Australian Sporting Car Club (WASCC) and Barbagallo Raceway are pleased to see a return to motorcycle activity with national ride day provider, Track Action, conducting a recreational motorcycle training and track day.

This highly controlled event is not timed and is not competitive. The sessions will also include coaching and mentoring from Track Action expert trainers.

As part of engaging Track Action for these commercial activities, WASCC undertook a significant due diligence process. This included evaluation of track inspection and reporting processes, insurances and appropriate approvals, as well as operational systems and procedures, including medical and emergency procedures. WASCC have found these to be equivalent or superior to any previous provider.

A Government-commissioned safety report, the Hall Report, was released in November 2016 and made a number of recommendations to improve safety. Although the Hall Report applies to racing, WASCC and their appointed engineers have considered key elements of the report as part of the process in the return of training and track day motorcycle activities. These considerations have been implemented in the capital works undertaken by WASCC and Track Action's placement of soft-wall safety barriers for the activity. In carrying out risk assessments for the motorcycle training and track activities today, the circuit meets the conditions of all required permitting and insurance bodies.

While significant safety measures have been implemented, strict controls in place and the activity conducted by a highly experienced team, the fact remains that any motorcycle-related activity carries an element of risk. This risk can be on a track as well as on public roads. The nature of motor-cycle activity is such that the only way to eliminate risk would be to not conduct the activity.

Despite recent comments by Motorcycling Australia (MA), the Barbagallo Raceway track remains compliant with the most recent published track guidelines from MA. Since March 2017 MA have promised updated guidelines, aligning with the Hall Report. To date no updated guidelines have been issued, in addition MA have failed to work in a collaborative manner regarding the return of motorcycle activities. This approach has provided significant challenges to WASCC, forcing the Club to engage their own engineering resources to undertake design work which by rights should have been carried out by MA.

Subsequent to a track inspection in mid-March 2018, licences were issued by MA for training and track day motorcycle activity. The licences however contained a series of conditions which were questioned by WASCC. Initial communication from MA indicated these conditions could be removed from the

licences and/or supporting letters as they related to the permit holder and event organiser, not the track licence holder. However subsequent MA communication advised no conditions would be removed. WASCC, as part of their due diligence process, also sought confirmation from MA that all levels of MA insurances carried APRA approval. Without providing further response MA withdrew the licenses and have closed off communications with WASCC on the matter.

WASCC President Russell Sewell said the Club was continuing to work towards the goal of the return of competitive motorcycle activities to Barbagallo Raceway and our engineers are looking at a particular area of concern; the barrier adjacent to Turn 3. As part of a recent comprehensive WASCC briefing to representatives from the Office of the Minister for Sport and Sport and Recreation WA, the group reviewed potential options for the relocation of Turn 3 barrier, as well as other potential capital projects for the raceway. Once the updated MA track guidelines are finalised and issued, it is hoped MA will leverage off these designs to provide definitive details, permitting the Club to prepare capital works plans.

Throughout the process WASCC have maintained an open dialogue with the grass roots motorcycle racing group in WA, Motorcycle Racing Club WA (MRCWA).

“Bringing motorcycle activity back to Barbagallo is a really exciting development and one that we have been focussed on achieving for the past 18 months,” Mr Sewell said.

“We are very excited about the opportunities with Track Action and the services they will provide, it’s a real win for motorcycle enthusiasts in WA. We will continue to consult with Sports Minister Mick Murray, MLA, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, about the options for facilitating a return to motorcycle racing.”

WASCC developed the Barbagallo Raceway in 1969, operating and continuing to develop the track since that time, largely on a self-funded basis. During a typical year, between 350 and 400 separate motorsport activities are conducted at the Barbagallo facility, as well as between 200 and 250 private practice sessions for both 2 and 4 wheel participants. Barbagallo Raceway hosts a huge range of users and motorsport participants, including over 40 not-for-profit enthusiast car and motorcycle clubs, who conduct events there on a regular basis.

Further announcements will be made in due course. You can stay up to date with what's happening on the WASCC [website](#) or the WASCC [Facebook](#) page.

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