

Transcript of Proceedings

CORONERS COURT

HENNESSY, Coroner

COR-00003220/06(1)

IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUEST INTO THE
CAUSE AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING
THE DEATH OF MICHAEL IAN CHARLESWORTH BESSELL

ROCKHAMPTON

..DATE 20/07/2007

FINDINGS

WARNING: The publication of information or details likely to lead to the identification of persons in some proceedings is a criminal offence. This is so particularly in relation to the identification of children who are involved in criminal proceedings or proceedings for their protection under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, and complainants in criminal sexual offences, but is not limited to those categories. You may wish to seek legal advice before giving others access to the details of any person named in these proceedings.

CORONER: Okay. Well, there are a number of formal findings that I am required to make under the Coroner's Act and then I will proceed to make these recommendations and we can speak further.

So I formally find that the deceased person was Michael Ian Charlesworth Bessell, who was born on the 28th of March 1987. I find that he died on the 24th of November 2006, following a two-vehicle accident on the Burnett Highway near Mount Morgan in which his motorcycle appeared to travel to the incorrect side of the road where it came into collision with a bread truck. The cause of the accident is speculative, but it was perhaps due to excessive speed or inexperience of the deceased driving the motorcycle or perhaps both, but it could easily have been explainable by another cause which was not evident to the investigating police.

I am satisfied that there is not sufficient evidence to charge any person with any offence as a result of the incident and I find that Mr Bessell died from multiple injuries which he sustained in the motor vehicle accident.

CORONER: There are some recommendations which have been proposed by the investigating police officer which I will make. The first is I recommend that the Queensland Police Service consider conducting more traffic patrols of this section of road and enforce road rules such as failing to keep left and speeding with consideration for zero tolerance of those offences.

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The road can best be describe as being situated approximately 500 metres to one kilometre from the boundary of Mount Morgan, near Stopford Way on the Burnett Highway.

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Further, I recommend that Queensland Transport give consideration to the speed limit on the section of road that is currently 70 kilometres per hour, being reduced to 60 kilometres per hour and the speed limit which is currently 60 kilometres per hour on the bend in particular, be reduced to 50 kilometres per hour and that that speed zone be extended to give vehicles more opportunity to slow down prior to the bend.

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I do not propose to make any further recommendations. Those recommendations will be forwarded to the highest levels of both Queensland Transport and the Queensland Police Service for their consideration and my practice is to ask those departments to give me feedback as to what action they have taken so that I can then pass that on to you if you are wanting to have that information.

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