

TRANSPORT — DRIVERLESS CARS

1008. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

This question has been in the file since last week. I refer to driverless vehicles.

- (1) Has the minister or his department started drafting the necessary legislation to enable driverless vehicles to operate on Western Australian roads?
- (2) If yes to (1), when will the legislation be made public?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Driverless vehicles can already operate on Western Australian roads if permitted by the use of exemption powers under existing legislation. This is how the Department of Transport has authorised the current trial in South Perth of a highly automated electric shuttle bus operated by the Royal Automobile Club of Western Australia. This is the first time in Australia, and one of the first times in the world, that such a trial has been conducted on open public roads. Further, Western Australia is working collaboratively with other Australian governments to develop national guidelines on such tests and nationally consistent legislation to enable the mass market deployment of automated vehicles.