

ELECTRIC BICYCLES — POWER LIMIT

3219. Hon Robin Chapple to the minister representing the Minister for Transport

With reference to electric bicycles and the current 200W power limit, and the comparative Canadian and USA standards of 500W with a speed limit of 20mph and 1000W respectively, I ask —

- (1) Will the Minister consider allowing for more flexibility with power limits, but impose a requirement for speed governors to be installed on electric bicycles?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that 200W is not enough to provide the benefits of easier hill climbs, even at low inclines and assisted starting?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that many electric bicycles that exceed the 200W threshold are produced in Australia and/or are available for import but are controlled to 30kmh or under in top speed?
- (4) Given that most conventional bicycles can and are peddled at speeds well in excess of 30kmh, can the Minister explain why in Western Australia we do not have laws in respect of speed control mechanisms or speed governors for electric bikes, as opposed to those limiting power by wattage?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)-(4) Greater flexibility will be considered and it is possible that the legislation be amended whereby the power for electric bicycles is cut off at speeds in excess of 25km / hour.