

ENGINE BRAKE NOISE — STANDARDS

3022. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Transport

In reference to answers to QWN No. 690 from 16 September 2010, I ask —

- (1) What technical difficulties have been reported, and in what jurisdictions?
- (2) Why are these difficulties stopping Western Australia from identifying how the system could be tested and implemented successfully in this State?
- (3) Does the Minister's department have the technical and legal capacity to test, evaluate, and implement the engine brake noise standards?
- (4) Does the Minister agree that brake noise is a significant community concern in relation to traffic impacts in Western Australia?
- (5) Does the Minister agree with the decision of Western Australia to be a signatory to the 2007 Australian Transport Council commitment?
- (6) If the nation's two biggest states, Victoria and NSW, can implement a logical, staged approach to implementing engine brake noise limits, including identifying and resolving technical challenges, why can't Western Australia take a similar staged approach, and thus begin addressing the problem of brake noise immediately?
- (7) What other actions will the Minister take to reduce the impacts of engine brake noise on Western Australian communities while we wait until other states have fully implemented the new standards and compliance systems?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Both NSW and South Australia have reported problems with false activation of the equipment, for instance, motorbike noise.
- (2) False activation is a serious issue, which must be properly resolved before any technology is used for enforcement purposes. It must be noted that Victoria has reverted to a focus on traditional management methods due to technology issues.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) It is a concern for people affected at various locations, but not for the whole Western Australian community.
- (5) Agree with the aim of looking for ways to manage the issue and using technology where suitable.
- (6) It would be in WA's interest to observe and benefit from the substantial work being carried out in each of these jurisdictions.
- (7) Main Roads will continue to make all efforts to minimise the impact of all forms of road noise on the community. However, engine brake noise is an enforcement issue that needs to be adequately resolved.