

CYCLISTS — OVERTAKING CLEARANCE

1009. Mrs M.H. Roberts to the Minister for Road Safety:

Currently the *Drive Safe Handbook* distributed by the Department for Transport encourages drivers to allow a minimum of one metre overtaking clearance when overtaking a cyclist at speeds of 50 to 70 km/h, and I ask:

- (a) is the Minister considering the introduction of legislation to make the minimum of one metre for overtaking a cyclist a legal requirement for drivers doing speeds of 50 to 70 km/h:
 - (i) if yes, when does the Minister intend to introduce this legislation; and
 - (ii) if not, why not?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

- (a) (i)–(ii) WA adopts the national position of legislation for a passing distance that is sufficient to avoid collision ‘with’ any vehicle, including bicycles, while overtaking.

In response to the national push to introduce a mandated passing distance rule for overtaking a cyclist, the National Transport Commission, who administers the Australian Road Rules Maintenance process, will be convening a meeting of all jurisdictions in October 2013 to discuss the rule proposal.

Western Australian representatives will participate in the meeting and, if such a proposal is considered beneficial and agreed for inclusion in the ARR’s, will be translated into WA legislation at the earliest opportunity.