

OVERSIZED VEHICLES OPERATING AT NIGHT — OFFENCES

2188. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Transport

I refer to oversized vehicles running operations at night either without or in contravention to their permit conditions, and ask —

- (1) How many offences in this regard were detected in —
 - (a) 2009; and
 - (b) three months to 31 March 2010?
- (2) Does Main Roads believe there has been an increase incidence of this occurring?
- (3) What action or plans does Main Roads have to address this problem?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)
 - (a) 13 occurrences were detected in 2009 relating to the operation of vehicles travelling under a Class 1 Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) permit in breach of the permit conditions by operating during night curfew.
 - (b) At this stage, there have been no recorded interceptions relating to the operation of oversize vehicles or loads at night during 2010.
- (2) Regular patrols are conducted as part of regional operations by Main Roads' Transport Inspectors during the period between sunset and sunrise. There has been no indication of an increase in the occurrence of oversized vehicles operating during night curfews. Further to this, the incidence of reports being received from the public relating to the sighting of oversize vehicles and loads at night significantly decreased over last three months of 2009 and the first three months of this year.
- (3) Further to (2), Main Roads has communicated extensively to industry, through the Complying Together bulletin prepared by its Heavy Vehicle Operations Branch, that it will be specifically targeting operators who travel in breach of their permit conditions by operating oversize at night.

Transport Inspectors rostered on evening and night shifts are targeting these operators as a matter of priority, both in the metropolitan and rural regions.

In October 2009 Main Roads' Transport Inspectors conducted a compliance and enforcement exercise specifically targeting transport operators who undertook oversize operations outside their permit conditions. This Main Roads exercise was conducted over a five day period and involved up to 12 Transport Inspectors per shift. The locality of the exercise was strategically chosen to target loads being transported to the North West along the major transport routes, being Great Northern Highway and the Brand / North West Coastal Highways.

Main Roads will conduct further communication, compliance and enforcement exercises at various locations throughout Western Australia over the next two years, targeting oversize operations at night.