

EXTRAORDINARY DRIVERS' LICENCES

684. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the minister's comment in *The West Australian* on 5 January 2009 that he would ask cabinet whether WA should review its extraordinary licence system and the minister's comment in February 2010 that the government was currently examining a number of options that would see the extraordinary licence scheme better reflect the community's expectation and the minister's comment today that the government is going to introduce legislation to make it harder to get an extraordinary licence.

- (1) Considering that it has now been almost two years since this issue was first raised, why has this legislation not already been introduced?
- (2) When is the minister going to actually introduce this legislation?
- (3) Is this another example of why the minister recently got a D as minister?

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: The last part of that question is out of order.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)–(3) My good friend Robert Taylor no doubt meant it as a D for distinction. I have not spoken to him for a couple of years but I am sure that he holds me in the highest affection. I do not recall the several publications that the member referred to. I do not think I was quoted in this morning's paper and it has not been two years. The fact is that the government has been examining the question of extraordinary drivers' licences for some time. I have had various exchanges, discussions and considerations with the Attorney General that have led to progress being made on a couple of fronts. With regard to the specific one the member asked about, although I am bound by the protocols surrounding cabinet deliberations, I can tell the member that I anticipate that there will be some legislation before the house very soon. Certainly I have made recommendations to government before now that are working their way through the processes. It is important to reflect community concern about the parameters available to the courts for the issuing of extraordinary drivers' licences. This has been a concern of the community for a long time. This government is doing something about it and it is something that the previous government did not do anything about.