

UNLICENSED VEHICLES — BASELINE DATA

857. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the minister's commitment during the debate on the Road Traffic Legislation Amendment (Registration Labels) Bill 2009 to investigate establishing baseline data on the number of unlicensed vehicles on our roads to assist in determining the success or otherwise of the measure.

- (1) Has the minister investigated options for establishing baseline data?
- (2) If yes, what options were considered?
- (3) Has baseline data been established; and if yes, will the minister table it?
- (4) Is the government aware of any information that indicates whether the removal of registration stickers has had any impact on the number of unlicensed vehicles on our roads?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. On 12 November 2009, I said in the house —

In relation to baseline studies of the number of unlicensed vehicles on our roads, in these days of computers it is fairly easy to determine how many licensed vehicles are on our roads, and how many vehicles that were registered a certain time ago are now not registered. However, that is all it tells us.

It was therefore with little prospect of success that I did acquiesce to Hon Ken Travers' persistent requests to investigate the possibility of finding baseline data.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The options considered: Investigated the validity of checking changes in vehicle licence status from licensed to unlicensed. However, this is not a viable indication that an unlicensed vehicle is used on the road—the vehicle might be garaged and licensed later, garaged and not licensed, sold for parts, or used in an area not requiring licensing, such as a farm.

We investigated the viability of the number of recorded convictions for the use of an unlicensed vehicle on the road for a given period. However, this is not viable because the cause for using the vehicle is not linked to the vehicle not displaying a certificate of registration label.

We investigated utilisation of Western Australia Police automatic number plate reading devices at fixed and repeatable locations to monitor passing vehicles. However, because the automatic number plate reading technology is only a new tool, there is no previous statistics using these tools.

- (3)–(4) No. However, I am aware of the member for Willagee's recent press release in which he states that since registration stickers ceased—it was a policy of the former government—there has been, as a direct result, a sharp increase in people driving unregistered vehicles. The government rejects this claim. But Hon Ken Travers can ask Mr Tinley for the baseline data he relies upon to support his claim, if he wishes.