

MAIN ROADS — RESTRICTED ACCESS VEHICLES

693. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to local government-issued exemptions for transport operators of restricted access vehicles to access minor roads to reach their nearest restricted access vehicle-approved road.

- (1) Do these local government exemptions issued to transport operators of RAVs have legal authority and protection from prosecution by the Department of Transport?
- (2) If no to (1), would this leave local government councils and transport operators exposed to legal liability and insurance claim rejections should an incident occur on a non-RAV road?
- (3) If yes to (2), is the government considering legislation to provide a legal framework for the provision of exemptions for the practical necessity of operators having to access RAV-approved roads from another location?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Local governments do not have any authority under the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012 to grant exemptions or approvals to enable restricted access vehicles to access public roads.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Main Roads is the only agency in Western Australia with the authority to grant exemptions or approvals to enable RAVs to access public roads. Main Roads conducts safety and infrastructure assessments of roads prior to approving RAV access. Main Roads can provide training to local governments so that local governments are able to assess the suitability of their local roads for RAV access; however, all RAV access assessments by local government must be provided to Main Roads for review and for Main Roads to issue the RAV access permits to the transport operator in accordance with legislative requirements.