

MOTOR VEHICLES, EMISSIONS

13. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Racing and Gaming representing the Minister assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

In regards to the Australian Vehicle Standards Rule on visible emissions from vehicles -

- (1) Which classes of vehicles are permitted to emit visible exhaust emissions and for how long?
- (2) When were these standards introduced?
- (3) When were these standards last reviewed?
- (4) How do these standards compare to those in the United Kingdom, United States and European Union?
- (5) Does the Minister for the Environment and Heritage intend to review these standards?
- (6) If yes, when?
- (7) If not, why not?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

- 1) "The 10 Second Rule" requires that all vehicles propelled by internal combustion engines and built after 1930 must not emit visible emission for a continuous period of at least 10 seconds.
- 2) These standards have not yet been introduced. The Australian Vehicle Standards Rules (1999) will soon be adopted into WA's law. They are currently being prepared and will replace the existing Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations. These regulations will provide for "the 10 Second Rule."
- 3) "The 10 Second Rule" itself has not been reviewed, however there is currently a national project (the Diesel Environment Protection Measure) being carried out by National Environment Protection Council investigating in-service emission regulations and compliance issues. They propose a review of the standards.
- 4) The Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations demand that a vehicle complies, and continues to comply for some time, with the "new vehicle" standards. That is, the Australian Design Rules current at the year of manufacture. These ADRs are administered by the Commonwealth. These Australian Design Rules are continually under review and a package of ADRs has been approved which will bring the emission standards in WA's and Australia's fleet in line with international standards.
- 5) The Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (not the Minister for the Environment and Heritage) is primarily responsible to review vehicle standards. The Minister for Environment and Heritage is responsible for fuel quality regulation in WA.
- 6) No.
- 7) This is the responsibility of the Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.