

TAXI PLATES, STATUS OF PEAK PERIOD TAXIS

242. Hon JIM SCOTT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

- (1) Is the minister aware of the recent decision by Stipendiary Magistrate Bromfield regarding conditions imposed on taxi plates in the case *Crown v Koh Boon Yew*, complaint Nos PE4274/03, 40282/03 and 40283/03?
- (2) Can the minister clarify the status of peak period taxis in the light of the magistrate's decision?
- (3) What action will the minister take regarding taxi plate classifications, and will it include amendments to the Taxi Act 1994?
- (4) Will the minister discuss future changes to the Act with peak period taxi drivers before making any amendments?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this four-part question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Subsequent to *Crown v Koh Boon Yew*, a case was heard in the Fremantle Court of Petty Sessions involving the same offence as that in the Koh case. In this case, the magistrate found that the taxi plate conditions were properly imposed, pursuant to a proper delegation, and found in favour of the Crown. Therefore, there is no change to the status of peak period taxis. Section 20(1) of the Taxi Act 1994 provides for the imposition of conditions. The key finding of the magistrate in the Koh case was that the conditions of taxi plate ownership had not been individually prescribed for each specific taxi plate but rather had been grouped depending on the type of taxi plate. To provide complete clarity for taxi owners, the Department for Planning and Infrastructure has since personally attributed conditions to each taxi plate and has provided each owner with specific conditions for their plates.
- (3)-(4) The minister does not consider that there is any need to amend the Taxi Act 1994 to further clarify taxi types. Each type of taxi is identified by a range of unique taxi plate numbers, and section 20 of the Act provides for the imposition of conditions on a taxi using specified taxi plates.