

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Transport and Regional Services

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: MLT 01

Topic: International Vehicle Safety Specifications

Hansard Page: Not applicable – additional post hearing written question

Output: Maritime and Land Transport

Senator Bishop asked:

Can the Department outline the kinds of differences in safety specifications between Australia and the countries from which such vehicles are commonly imported and what the problems were under the previous arrangements?

Answer:

Some instances of differences in safety and emission standards between Australia and other countries include:

- Australia has unique child restraint anchorage requirements;
- Australia introduced side door intrusion requirements ahead of Japan;
- Australian test cycle for emissions is different from that in the Japanese emission standards, therefore, direct comparison is not possible; and
- Australian lighting requirements are different from the US requirements where they permit red rear turn indicator lights.

The problem with the previous arrangement was that it undermined the main objective of the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989*, to achieve uniform vehicle standards for vehicles when first supplied to the Australian market. The use of the exemption not requiring older imported vehicles to meet these standards, allowed significant numbers of older non-standard used vehicles to be imported.

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Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: MLT 02

Topic: Importers of Vehicles

Hansard Page: Not applicable – additional post hearing written question

Output: Maritime and Land Transport

Senator Bishop asked:

Are importers of such vehicles usually collectors and enthusiasts seeking models not available in Australia, with such an import trade therefore not impacting negatively on the viability of the Australian domestic motor vehicle industry?

Answer:

The Department does not collect information on the purpose for which older vehicles are being imported into Australia. The extent of any impact on the viability of the Australian domestic motor vehicle industry is not known to the Department.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Senate Budget Estimates May 2005

Question No.: MLT 03

Topic: 'Complying' Vehicles

Hansard Page: Not applicable – additional post hearing written question

Output: Maritime and Land Transport

Senator Bishop asked:

How many people are employed “complying” vehicles to meet Australian standards – both before the recent changes and now?

Answer:

The Department does not collect any information on the number of people employed ‘complying’ vehicles and, therefore, cannot provide these details.