



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Passenger Transport**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (2.31 pm): On 11 August this year, I announced the government's new framework for the personalised transport industry. Part of that announcement in August was for an industry reference group to be established to work through the second stage of the reform package. Today, invitations for membership have been issued and the first meeting of the reference group will be held next month. This is after the 30 one-on-one industry meetings that have been held since 11 August with the Department of Transport and Main Roads. This new group, comprising industry participants, consumer advocates, motorist groups, disability access groups, tourism advocates, social access groups and driver representatives, will be chaired by the director-general of the department. The group will be engaged directly on helping shape the detail and implementation of the second stage of the government's reform package.

The second stage of our reforms includes comprehensive changes to the primary legislation covering the industry, as well as the foreshadowed new licensing regime and chain of responsibility for taxi and booked hire services. A topic for discussion with this reference group will be the nature and requirements of the new booked hire/taxi, which will become known as BHTX, driver authorisation, which covers issues such as language proficiency and driver training. Whilst other requirements such as the federal government's skilled work visas cover issues such as English language competency for foreign workers, I am open to engagement and representations from industry on this question. I note that holders of a general drivers authorisation do not currently have English language requirements and have been able to service the booked hire market, so there will be different views on this question. The reference group will be the forum for that discussion. Of course, I will continue to have direct engagement with stakeholders along the way, but this group will be the key group for consultation on the finer aspects of the reforms.

I am confident that, by working closely with this industry reference group, the government will continue to finetune the reforms we have made to the personalised transport sector. This group will help us deliver the second stage of the reforms and achieve the goal we have sought of a level playing field, a framework that will survive future technology and market changes and ensure the greatest amount of consumer choice.