Question on Notice

No. 2012

Asked on Thursday 7 October 2010

MS SIMPSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (MS NOLAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent vicious attacks on taxi drivers in Townsville—

(1) How many reported incidents involving assaults on taxi drivers have been logged since the start of 2010 for all metro and regional areas?
(2) On how many occasions have failure of duress alarms due to software problems or other issues and 'black spots' been reported?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

1) Over the past four years this government has spent approximately $8.4m supplying and installing security cameras in taxis across the whole of Queensland. This initiative was completed earlier this year with security cameras now installed in over 3 250 taxis.

   Data for the period 1 January 2010 to 19 October 2010 indicates that 189 reported incidents involving assaults on taxi drivers have occurred. Taxis undertake approximately 90m passenger trips each year in Queensland. Based on this, approximately 0.0003% of taxi trips (or about 1 in 381 000 taxi trips) involve an assault.

2) The *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2005* requires every taxi to be fitted with a green distress light. There is no legislative requirement for distress or duress alarms to be connected to a radio or dispatch system. These additional features are fitted at a taxi operator's discretion and monitored by the operator. Failures of duress alarms due to software problems or other issues like 'black spots' are not required to be reported to the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Consequently, the department does not store, monitor or report on these statistics.

The safety of Queensland's taxi drivers is a key priority area for the state government and is a primary focus in the *Queensland Taxi Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015*. Key actions within the plan include ensuring that technological safeguards, such as security cameras are in place and reviewing the driver duress systems and procedures to ensure operational parameters around activation and response are effective.