

## Question on Notice

No. 1087

Asked on Friday, 17 June 2011

MR FOLEY asked the Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs (MS PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to wide load vehicles travelling on roads—

- (1) What regulations are currently in place for the transport of wide loads?
- (2) If wide loads are being transported during night hours, what safety measures/ lighting must be in place?
- (3) If loads are particularly wide (that is taking up more than one lane), what onus is on the pilot vehicle to ensure that vehicles approaching the wide load have the ability to get off the road safely?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maryborough for the question.

I am advised that the Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Mass Dimension and Loading) Regulation, 2005, regulates the issuing of permits and guidelines for vehicles and vehicle combinations which do not meet regulation requirements, including wide loads.

Both the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service are the delegated authorities to issue excess dimension permits for the safe movement of a vehicle or type of vehicle under the regulation.

Permits are generally issued on an individual basis and impose requirements such as which roads may be used, maximum dimensions, extra requirements of operation, travel time restrictions, signs and warning devices, requirements for pilot and escorts, maximum speed and other matters relevant to the safe movement of the oversize vehicle.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads administer a specific guideline that covers the movement of excess dimensional vehicles that are carrying large objects, excess dimension special purpose vehicles and vehicles that require a pilot or escort. The guideline is based on nationally agreed oversize and over mass regulations with additional requirements imposed for travel in Queensland to ensure the safe movement of these vehicles on the road network.

Additional lighting requirements are specified for night time travel, and all applicable warning devices required for daylight hours must continue to be used during night travel.

Over width vehicles and combinations operating out of daylight hours must display side markers which consist of yellow lights to the front and red or yellow lights to the rear placed no more than two metres apart along both sides of the load.

Along any front and rear projection, two red lights must be fitted to the rear of any projecting load within 400 mm of each side of the load, and at least one metre but not more than 2.1 metres above the ground.

I am further advised that a flashing yellow coloured warning light must be displayed if an oversize vehicle or vehicle combination is wider than 2.5 metres or longer than 22 metres operating out of daylight hours.

Approval for night operation is only given to certain oversize vehicles or vehicle combinations following the consideration of the vehicle or vehicle combination size; time of travel; traffic volume; climatic conditions; visibility requirements including operation during fog, heavy rain and smoke; and the minimum requirements for pilot and escorts.

Pilot and escort vehicle operators have a responsibility to plan their route and be aware of pull over points on the proposed route for both the oversize vehicle or vehicle combination and any vehicles affected by the movement of the oversize vehicle or vehicle combination.

Pilot and escort vehicle operators must also take into consideration, road and traffic conditions, speed of travel of the oversize vehicle, the location, traffic volumes and weather conditions. Prior to the movement of a load, pilot and escort vehicle operators have a responsibility to scope the route to ensure the road is trafficable for the particular oversize vehicle or vehicle combination.

While some excess dimension vehicles or vehicle combinations may also be accompanied by Queensland Police officers, limited traffic control powers are given to level two escort vehicle drivers to direct drivers, riders and pedestrians to slow down, to proceed and to provide a clear passage for the oversize vehicle or vehicle combination.