

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 830**

**Asked on Tuesday, 19 November 2013**

**MR RICKUSS** asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON)—

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise if the maximum length of standard articulated vehicles (semi-trailers) is going to be increased to 20 metres?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Lockyer for the question.

The general road network is designed using a 19 metre semi trailer as a template vehicle. 19 metres is the nationally agreed length for vehicle combinations seeking access to the general road network.

Operators wishing to use vehicles over this length can have the vehicle accessed under the national Performance Based Standards (PBS) scheme. The PBS scheme is administered by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and in Queensland allows general access for PBS vehicles up to 20 metres in length.

Vehicles are assessed under the PBS scheme according to 16 minimum vehicle performance standards to ensure they are safe on the road and include stability, turning and braking performance. Additionally, there are four infrastructure protection standards. These standards cover pavement vertical and horizontal loading, tyre contact area and bridge loading.

There is a blueprint design for a 20 metre semi-trailer and this has been available to industry since 2007. The 20 metre semi-trailer blueprint has been developed including extensive consultation with industry to operate as a PBS Level 1 vehicle (general road access).

A support tool has been developed by the National Transport Commission to assist operators in configuring a vehicle to suit their needs. The support tool and its user guide is available from the NHVR website.