

Question on Notice

No. 838

Asked on Wednesday, 20 November 2013

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

QUESTION:

With reference to a letter from my constituent to the Minister on 21 August 2013—

Will the Minister explain the anomaly that will not allow P plate drivers to drive a vehicle with a modification, even though that modification gives the vehicle less power than that of unmodified cars, such as a SV6 Commodore (210Kw) or a V8 Turbo diesel Toyota Landcruiser, which a P plater is allowed to drive?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mount Isa for the question.

High-powered (performance) vehicle restrictions apply to all P plate drivers under the age of 25 years.

High-powered (performance) vehicles include those with:

- eight or more cylinders
- a turbocharged or supercharged engine that is not diesel powered
- an engine that has a power output of more than 210kW as per the manufacturer's specifications
- a rotary engine that has an engine capacity of more than 1146cc as per the manufacturer's specifications
- a modified engine that must be approved under section 13 of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management — Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010*.

The following vehicles are exempt and can be driven:

- Suzuki Cappuccino 2D Cabriolet Turbo 3 657-698cc (1992-1997)
- Daihatsu Copen L880 2D Convertible Turbo 4 659cc (2003 or later)
- Smart Fortwo Coupe 2D Turbo 3 698cc (2000 or later)
- Smart Fortwo Cabriolet Turbo 3 2D 698cc (2000 or later)
- Smart Roadster Turbo 3 2D 698cc (2000 or later)
- Toyota Landcruiser

P plate drivers need a reliable means to determine whether or not they can legally drive a vehicle and the Queensland Police Service must be able to enforce this legislation effectively.

When a vehicle's engine is modified, it is difficult to accurately determine the adjusted power-to-weight ratio. Therefore, all vehicles with a modified engine are automatically classed as a high-powered vehicle.

However, if there is a genuine need for a P plate driver to drive a high-powered vehicle then an application for an exemption may be lodged. Each application is assessed on an individual case by case basis and the applicant must show that refusal of the application will cause severe hardship to either themselves or their family.