

Question on Notice

No. 920

Asked on Tuesday 11 June 2019

MR C BOYCE ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to motor vehicle registrations—

Will the Minister (a) provide the number of registered vehicles in Queensland and the annual percentage rate of unregistered vehicles for the past three years, (b) give an indication of the quantum of revenue forgone each year and (c) advise what measures the Department of Transport and Main Roads has taken in an attempt to have motorists comply with the registration requirements?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Callide for the question.

As at 31 May 2019, there were 5,346,981 vehicles registered in Queensland.

Under the system of vehicle registration used in Queensland, vehicles which are not registered by the due date for payment of their registration fees become expired. If a registration remains expired for three months, the registration is automatically cancelled.

Vehicle owners who wish to reinstate an expired registration within three months of expiry, are required to backpay registration to the original due date for that registration and are also required to pay a Registration Renewal Reinstatement Fee. For those vehicles which have an expired registration reinstated, there is no revenue impact to the State.

Vehicle owners who wish to register a vehicle which has had its registration cancelled are required to go through the entire registration process as if it was a new registration.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) does not hold information in relation to the reasons why customers choose to allow vehicle registrations to become cancelled. It is presumed that there are a variety of reasons at play, which include vehicles that are written off after an accident, vehicles which are scrapped due to age or defects and vehicles that are no longer in use by the registered operator.

For 2018, an average of 2.3 per cent of vehicles across the fleet had registration which became expired for a period of time. Over the same period, 0.44 per cent of the total fleet was subsequently automatically cancelled.

TMR and the Queensland Police Service undertake enforcement action where unregistered vehicles are detected on Queensland roads. The widespread deployment of Automated Number Plate Recognition capability has greatly enhanced the ability to identify unregistered vehicles.

TMR has also implemented improved services and methods for communicating with customers to encourage on-time payment of registration. These include email notices and reminders, implementation of the Queensland Rego Check App to check registration status, and the Direct

Debit Registration Renewal Scheme. This scheme enables customers to make regular, and more manageable, payments towards their vehicle registration renewal and provides a convenient 'set and forget' payment option.

There is also the option of the Planned Payment Scheme which is available through Australia Post outlets. This scheme enables registered operators to pay registration renewal fees in \$40 instalments throughout the year before the registration expires.

The funds collected from registration fees contributes to important initiatives, including a \$70 million investment in regional roads via the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme and upgrading the Bruce Highway.

The Palaszczuk Government's commitment to roads and transport is evidenced by its latest record Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program which was released on 11 June 2019. The \$23 billion program will sustain 21,500 jobs during its life.

The Palaszczuk Government's approach to infrastructure investment and job creation is in stark contrast to the former Newman LNP Government, in which the Member was the Assistant Minister for Public Transport. Under the government which he was part of, \$600 million was cut from roads and transport investment and 14,000 workers were sacked from their jobs.

Only the Palaszczuk Labor Government can be trusted to deliver the roads and transport infrastructure our growing state needs.