

## Question on Notice

No. 192

Asked on 6 March 2024

**MR S KNUTH** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to international seasonal workers within my electorate who either purchase or hire a car leading to accidents due to some international drivers not being fully aware of our state's road laws—

Will the Minister consider the introduction of an International 'V' plate to ensure international drivers are made aware of Queensland road laws and make other road users aware of international drivers on our roads?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Hill for the question.

International drivers are currently subject to a range of requirements when driving in Queensland. They must drive only the class of motor vehicle authorised on their licence, comply with any licence conditions, and show their licence to a police officer when asked to do so (including a recognised English translation where relevant).

International drivers can accrue demerit points for road rule violations and their authority to drive in Queensland on their international licence can be suspended if they exceed their demerit point limit. They are required to be aware of the *Queensland Road Rules* when they drive in Queensland, and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) provides related information for international drivers on its website, and through targeted communication campaigns via Street Smarts.

The introduction of any additional measures—such as 'V' plates—would need to be based on clear evidence that international drivers (as a group) pose a higher road safety risk, and that more targeted measures are needed. I am advised by TMR that there is currently no evidence to support these changes. There is an additional risk that the use of measures such as 'V' plates may result in a presumption that drivers displaying them are unsafe and should be avoided. This negative stigma could inadvertently result in low compliance. Additionally, adding new types of plates could lead to confusion with existing 'L' and 'P' plates.

TMR continues to work with other Australian jurisdictions to monitor road safety risks associated with international drivers, assess consistency of requirements, and ensure harmonised education and communications materials for international drivers.