

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

MOTOR TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE (NO. 3) 1985

NO. 31 OF 1985

The Motor Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance 1985 amends the Motor Traffic Ordinance 1936 ("the principal Ordinance") removing the requirement that motor cycles display a front number plate. It was considered that changes to the design of motor cycles made it difficult to mount a front number plate. It was also considered that the front number plate could present some danger to riders and pedestrians. The Ordinance makes it an offence not to return a surplus number plate and empowers the Registrar to refuse the registration of a motor cycle where he has reason to believe that the owner is holding a surplus number plate.

Sections 1,2 and 3 deal with interpretation and commencement.

Section 4 inserts a new section, section 17A into the principal Ordinance providing that upon the registration of a motor vehicle or trailer, the Registrar shall issue:

- (a) 2 number plates in respect of a motor vehicle not being a motor cycle; or
- (b) 1 number plate in respect of a motor cycle or trailer.

Section 5 amends section 18 of the principal Ordinance by removing the requirement for a motor cycle to display two number plates.

Section 6 amends section 19 of the principal Ordinance so as to provide for the issue of 1 replacement number plate to a motor cycle where the original number plate was defaced or damaged.

Section 7 amends section 20 of the principal Ordinance so as to provide for the issue of 1 replacement number plate to a motor cycle where the original number plate was lost or destroyed.

Section 8 inserts a new section, section 20A into the principal Ordinance which makes it an offence to fail to return a number plate made surplus by the operation of section 5 without reasonable excuse. A maximum penalty of \$500 has been provided for this offence.

Section 9 amends section 23 of the principal Ordinance so as to provide for the transfer of a single number plate from a motor cycle to another motor cycle upon the sale or transfer of that motor cycle.

Section 10 amends section 24 of the principal Ordinance so as to require the seller of a motor cycle to provide the Registrar with the numbers appearing on the number plate of that motor cycle.

Section 11 inserts into the principal Ordinance a new paragraph empowering the Registrar to refuse to register a motor cycle where he has reason to believe that the owner has a surplus number plate in respect of that motor cycle.

Section 12 omits from paragraph 182(2)(a) of the principal Ordinance a reference to a front number plate on a motor cycle.

Section 13 omits from clause 11 of Part 1 of the Second Schedule to the principal Ordinance a requirement for a front number plate to be affixed to a motor cycle.

Ord 12/85