

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

MOTOR TRAFFIC ORDINANCE (NO.3) 1973

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The proposed Motor Traffic Ordinance (No.3) 1973 will effect a number of amendments to the existing Motor Traffic Ordinance 1936-1973.

Design Rules

Following the introduction of new or amended Australian design rules approved by the Australian Transport Advisory Council new or amended definitions of "motor omnibus", "multi-purpose passenger car", "passenger car" and "passenger car derivative" are inserted into the existing Ordinance.

The proposed Ordinance will introduce the following new Australian design rules -

- . No. 6 for Direction Turn Signal Lamps,
- . No. 10B for Steering Columns,
- . No. 12 for Glare Reduction in Field of View,
- . No. 16 for Windscreen Wipers and Washers,
- . No. 18 for Location and Visibility of Instruments,
- . No. 21 for Instrument Panels and
- . No. 24 for Tyre Selection.

Under Age Driving Licences

Sub-section 10(4.) of the existing Ordinance provides that in special circumstances the Registrar may grant a driving licence to a person whose age would otherwise disqualify him

from holding a licence. The proposed Ordinance will enable the Registrar to impose conditions upon the grant of such a licence. A right of appeal to the Court of Petty Sessions by a person who is aggrieved by the granting by the Registrar of a licence subject to conditions is introduced.

Warnings and Signals

Section 136 of the existing Ordinance relates to the warnings and signals to be given by drivers. It will be an offence under the proposed Ordinance for a driver to stop or suddenly reduce speed unless he has given the prescribed signal.

It will also be an offence to fail to give a turning signal when turning to the right from a moving or stationary position and for the driver of a vehicle which is equipped with flashing light indicators not to use them when turning to the left from a moving or stationary position.

The stage at which a warning signal is to be given before the vehicle stops, reduces speed or turns is prescribed by the proposed Ordinance. The offence provisions relating to signalling a turn will not apply when the turn is made by reason only of following the course of the carriageway.

Certified Goods Vehicles

Section 157 of the existing Ordinance restricts parking in a loading zone to goods vehicles. The proposed Ordinance will extend the definition of "goods vehicle" in section 149 to include vehicles which are described in a certificate given by the Registrar under the proposed new

section 149A. Under that section a vehicle may be certified if it is required to be used for the carriage of goods in the course of the owner's business. The fee for the issue of a certificate will be twenty dollars. A certificate will remain in force for one year, until it is surrendered or until it is revoked by the Registrar.

A person who is aggrieved by the refusal of the Registrar to give, or by the Registrar's revocation of, a certificate, may appeal to the Court of Petty Sessions. Where an appeal is made against a decision of the Registrar to revoke a certificate the certificate will continue in force pending the appeal decision.

The proposed Ordinance will empower the Registrar to issue windscreen labels to identify certified vehicles and to direct the destruction of labels if a certificate ceases to have effect.

Local Bus Stops

The proposed Ordinance will limit the use of bus stops designated as local bus stops to buses operating on local services. The proposed Ordinance amends existing section 153 to make it an offence to park a vehicle, other than a bus providing a local service, in an area reserved as a local services bus stop.

Width of Vehicles

The proposed Ordinance will amend existing section 190 by adding two and one half inches to the maximum permitted width of a vehicle, which at present is eight feet.