

1998

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

MOTOR TRAFFIC ACT 1936

MOTOR TRAFFIC REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Circulated by the Authority of Minister for Urban Services
Brendan Smyth MLA**

Outline

Subsection 218 (ag) of the *Motor Traffic Act 1936* ("the Act") empowers the Executive to make regulations exempting motor vehicles of a specified class, or persons in respect of a specified class of vehicles, from the operation of any or all of the provisions of the Act. Such an exemption may be subject to such conditions, if any, as are specified.

The amending regulations exempt taxis from those provisions of Parts VIIA and VIII of the Act, referred to below, that would otherwise prevent them from using public transport routes (commonly referred to as "bus lanes").

Part VIIA of the Act covers traffic lights, including the rules applying to motor vehicles at traffic lights (section 112A) and the meanings indicated by traffic lights (section 112B).

Section 112A of the Act prohibits drivers from driving through traffic lights where to do so would involve a contravention of any of the provisions of section 112B. However, item 13 of section 112B permits the driver of a bus to drive through a red traffic light when a bus priority light (showing the letter "B" in white light) is also illuminated.

Part VIII of the Act covers rules of the road, including the rules applying to public transport routes (section 115C) and the rules which apply where unbroken lines are marked on the carriageway (section 116).

Section 115C of the Act prohibits the driving, standing or parking of vehicles other than local services motor omnibuses on public transport routes. Section 116 prohibits vehicles other than local services motor omnibuses from being driven across an unbroken line separating another traffic lane from a public transport route.

Financial considerations

The cost of changes to signs and lane markings is estimated at \$5000. This cost will be absorbed within the Infrastructure (Roads) budget for minor new works.

Details

Commencement

Regulation 1 provides that the amending Regulations will take effect on 27 July 1998.

Insertion

Regulation 2 inserts a new Part (Part IVA) after Part IV of the *Motor Traffic Regulations*.

Traffic Lights

Subregulation 26A permits a taxi to be driven past the stop line at a red traffic light, provided that a bus priority light (showing the letter "B" in white light) is also illuminated. It means that the driver of a taxi will not commit an offence against section 112A of the Act when doing so.

General exemption

Subregulation 26B (1) permits a taxi to be driven, or to stand or be parked, on a public transport route. It means that the driver of a taxi will not commit an offence against subsection 115C (1) of the Act when doing so.

Subregulation 26B (2) permits a taxi to be driven across an unbroken line separating a public transport route and another traffic lane in order to enter or leave the public transport route. It means that the driver of a taxi will not commit an offence against subsection 116 (1) of the Act when doing so.