



Tara Cheyne MLA

Minister for the Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy
Minister for City Services
Minister for Government Services and Regulatory Reform
Minister for Human Rights

Member for Ginninderra

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

13 December 2023

Dear Mr Duncan *Tom*

Thank you for your letter of 6 November 2023 regarding petition E-PET-019-23, lodged by former MLA, Mr Johnathan Davis, about Japanese Domestic Market Number Plates.

I acknowledge the concerns raised in this petition and agree there is a need to provide the option of number plates that fit Japanese Domestic Market vehicles. Based on earlier feedback from the community I have asked Access Canberra to work with Transport Canberra and City Services (noting Minister Steel has oversight of the legislation and policy in this space) to progress this change.

Section 51 of the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2000* provides that the Road Transport Authority (RTA) may determine the dimensions, layout and other characteristics with which numberplates must comply. In accordance with this section, the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Design of Numberplates Determination 2023* details the numberplates available for purchase and use in the ACT.

Section 96 of the *Road Transport (General) Act 1999* provides that the Minister may determine fees payable under the road transport legislation. Under this provision the *Road Transport (General) Numberplate Fees Determination 2023* outlines the fees payable for number plates which is based on plate type.

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To provide a new plate type with different dimensions suited to Japanese Domestic Market vehicles, changes to both of these determinations are required. Changes are also required to the ACT Government vehicle registration database to allow for the purchase and vehicle allocation of Japanese Domestic Market numberplates, along with updated staff procedures and communication to the community, motor vehicle dealers and staff.

We prioritise changes to the rego.act database that support the Vision Zero – no deaths or serious injuries on our road transport network and service improvements to enhance the liveability of the city. In the past twelve months the rego act work program has implemented stage 1A of Emissions Based Registration, 5 yearly medical assessments for heavy vehicle drivers, changes to the Vintage, Veteran and Historic Vehicle scheme, first aid course credit for learner drivers and warning notices for Mobile Device Detection Cameras.

In 2024, among the priorities for implementation are Direct Debit payments for vehicle registration, stage 1B of Emissions Based Registration, and new alcohol and drug infringements and suspensions. While Access Canberra have investigated the production and implementation of JDM, they have advised me that due to the already full work program of changes to rego.act, it is unlikely that the plates will be available before 2025.

I appreciate the time and effort taken to gather the views in this petition. If any information is required on progress for this change, the petitioners can contact Ms Rebecca Wilson, Senior Director, Licensing and Registration in Access Canberra at Rebecca.Wilson@act.gov.au.

Sincerely



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for Government Services and Regulatory Reform