

**Joint Select Committee on Road Safety**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Inquiry into Road Safety – Public hearing 6 October 2021

**Toll Group**

**Committee Question Number:** RSQN028

**Proof Hansard Page:** p. 42 (6 October 2021)

**Mr THISTLETHWAITE:** And what about the issue of conspicuity tape—mandating the reflective tape on vehicles as well? It's compulsory in the United States in certain areas; it doesn't appear to be in Australia yet.

**Dr Jones:** That's a question I'd like to take on notice, if I may. I'd like to consult with our equipment team.

**Answer**

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**Committee Question Number:** RSQN029

**Proof Hansard Page:** N/A (written)

Your submission states (p. 4) that 'Australia could even consider a "hard stop" on vehicle age as happens in Singapore'. Could you please advise the committee as to:

- the average vehicle age in Singapore;
- the policy rationale for a 'hard stop' on vehicle age in Singapore; and
- potential benefits and drawbacks for Australia, should a similar policy be adopted in this country.

The committee would also be grateful for any other information in relating to Singapore's 'hard stop' policy that you are able to provide.

**Answer**

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18 November 2021

Andrew McIntyre  
Inquiry Secretary, Joint Select Committee on Road Safety  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Andrew

Thank you for the opportunity to further participate in the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety's inquiry through responding to questions on notice.

You asked for further information in relation to two questions, provided below.

**RSQN028 Use of conspicuity tape on vehicles** – Toll supports the use of conspicuity tape in Australia. I refer the Committee to the Australian Trucking Association's Technical Advisory Procedure on heavy vehicle visibility available here: <https://www.truck.net.au/resource-library/heavy-vehicle-visibility-technical-advisory-procedure>

**RSQN029 Hard stop on vehicle age in Singapore** – "In order to own and operate a vehicle in Singapore, a Certificate of Entitlement (COE) is required. The COE allows the vehicle owner the right to own a vehicle for a period of 10 years".<sup>1</sup>

While a vehicle owner may apply for another COE at the end of the ten years, they must bid for the COE in a quota system.

Information on how the COE works is available on the Singapore government's website:  
<https://onemotoring.lta.gov.sg/content/onemotoring/home/buying/upfront-vehicle-costs/certificate-of-entitlement--coe-.html>

The system keeps vehicle age relatively low with 76% of goods vehicles aged under 10 years as at 31 October 2021.<sup>2</sup> In contrast, 35.8% of Australian heavy rigid trucks and 49% of articulated trucks were manufactured within the last ten years according to Australian Bureau of Statistics data.<sup>3</sup>

The system was introduced to cap the growth rate of the vehicle population at 3% per annum.<sup>4</sup> This was necessary due to limited land space for roads and high population density.<sup>5</sup>

Australian conditions are quite different. The sometimes vast distances between Australian towns and cities mean that vehicle ownership/access to a vehicle is a necessity for many. Toll Group cited the Singaporean experience as emblematic of what can be achieved when government is prepared to pull the policy levers at its disposal.

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank, 2019. A brief overview on the road safety approach in Singapore.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.lta.gov.sg/content/dam/ltagov/who\\_we\\_are/statistics\\_and\\_publications/statistics/pdf/M01-03M-Age.pdf](https://www.lta.gov.sg/content/dam/ltagov/who_we_are/statistics_and_publications/statistics/pdf/M01-03M-Age.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Motor Vehicle Census Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics

<sup>4</sup> Report of the Vehicle Quota System Review Committee, Singapore, March 1999

<sup>5</sup> Meng, Lu and Ohtman, "Determinants of Certificate of Entitlement Premium for Cars under Vehicle Quota System in Singapore", Journal of the Eastern Asia Society for Transportation Studies, vol 11, 2015, p. 126

If I can be of further assistance please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Dr Sarah Jones  
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Toll Group