

HEAVY VEHICLE LICENCES - FARMERS

**1150. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

- (1) Can the parliamentary secretary advise the house of changes that have been made to heavy vehicle licences for farmer-owned trucks?
- (2) Are savings possible for farmers; and, if so, what is the extent of those savings?

**Hon ADELE FARINA replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) Western Australian farmers could be eligible to save thousands of dollars a year after the state government announced a seasonal licence system for heavy vehicles. The Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Hon Tony McRae, announced the new system last week to be administered by the licensing business unit. The seasonal licence will be cheaper for farmers who used their heavy vehicles for only certain times of the year, such as seeding or the harvesting season. Under the old system, for heavy vehicles weighing more than 4.5 tonnes, a licence for 12 months cost nearly \$6 000. Under the new system it will cost about \$1 500 to licence that same vehicle for three months. Each seasonal licensing period must be for a minimum of three months, but that may be extended on a monthly basis. If the seasonal licence is renewed within 12 months, there is no requirement to return the number plates or to have the vehicle examined. This is great news for farmers. They can now license their heavy vehicles only when they are needed, rather than when they are sitting in the shed not being used. The new seasonal vehicle licensing system will save farmers money and time. It is simple, efficient and sensible. This is another example of the Carpenter government making decisions to transform the regions, and especially assist farmers who are feeling the financial effects of the drought.