

MAIN ROADS — HEAVY VEHICLE SERVICES

978. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the minister's answer concerning Main Roads Western Australia's heavy vehicle services' revised *Heavy lift tow truck period permit operating conditions*.

- (1) What specific vehicle telemetry equipment must heavy lift tow truck operators fit to their fleet to satisfy the pre-permit requirement to continue operating in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the cost of this equipment?
- (3) Noting that no other state or territory in Australia has introduced comparable permit conditions upon their heavy lift tow truck operators, including a requirement to install telematic and/or smart on-board mass monitoring equipment, what justification is there for compelling Western Australian operators to comply with this new requirement?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) The heavy lift tow truck period permit was introduced after an independent engineering assessment identified safety concerns with the previous regime.

Vehicles operating under the permit are provided generous mass and dimension concessions, but must be fitted with in-vehicle telemetry that can monitor the location and speed of the vehicle. This is to ensure the vehicle is travelling on approved routes, not crossing restricted structures, and operating at safe speeds. Further, a smart on-board mass management system must be fitted to each axle of the tow truck to ensure the operator complies with mass requirements, because not doing so has the potential to adversely impact vehicle safety and road infrastructure.

Based on cost estimates provided by suppliers, the cost is approximately \$5 000 to \$10 000, depending on the vehicle.

As stated yesterday, other state jurisdictions are now considering following WA's lead in introducing such conditions.