

ROAD TRANSPORT INDUSTRY — GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

927. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Transport:

A number of my constituents are either transport operators or they run trucking companies. Can the minister advise of any state government initiatives to assist this vital industry to stay competitive and continue to service our state?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

In addition to the work we are doing with the Gateway WA project and the Roe Highway–Berkshire Road interchange, we also acknowledge that the road transport industry is very competitive and the last thing it needs is government red tape eating into its margins. The state government has implemented a number of initiatives to assist the transport industry to do what it does best—that is, to keep Western Australia moving. One initiative involves a process that used to have three separate application forms—one to the police for getting vehicle escorts, another to Main Roads to obtain a restricted access vehicle permit, and a third to power agencies when power lines needed to be lifted for the trucks. Now the Liberal–National government has established a one-stop shop to let the heavy vehicle industry get on with its business. Overhead power lines have been placed underground at several key locations on the Melville to Mandurah corridor, namely around Stock Road and Rockingham Road, and also at Bindoon on Great Northern Highway. The consolidation of the two most commonly issued permits for restricted access vehicles has removed the \$50 permit fee, as well as the application renewal and issuing processes, saving the industry an estimated \$250 000 every year. We have also introduced an online permit system, which has significantly cut costs and reduced time-consuming administration.

All in all, I think it is a great outcome. These are just a couple of the measures that the Liberal–National state government has introduced to ensure our state is served by an efficient and effective road transport industry. We are reducing the red tape burden of over-administration for the benefit of all members of our community, and we will continue to do so.