

DRIVING ASSESSMENT CONTRACTS — WHEATBELT

4635. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Department of Transport's September 2015 decision not to extend the contracts of Wheatbelt-based registered training organisations (RTOs) which were providing practical driving assessments (PDAs) for heavy vehicles, and I ask:

- (a) in which cities, towns, and other localities are each of the 15 new appointments which are replacing the previously contracted Wheatbelt-based providers based;
- (b) what compensation will the State Government provide to people from parts of the Wheatbelt who will now be forced to travel up to four hours for a round trip to reach the nearest heavy vehicle PDA provider; and
- (c) in respect of comments made to the *Wagin Argus* on 17/9/15 around RTO agents having the capacity to travel to "any regional location if requested or where there is sufficient community interest":
 - (i) who will determine if a request to visit a regional location is granted;
 - (ii) what factors will be taken into account when considering if a visit to a regional location will be granted;
 - (iii) what is the definition in this instance of "sufficient community interest"; and
 - (iv) will the State Government compensate RTOs for the cost of their travelling to a regional area or will any such cost be borne by the RTO?

Mr D.C. Nalder replied:

- (a) RTOs provide services state wide. There are currently 16 RTOs located in the following areas; Albany (2), Busselton, Carlisle, Davenport, Geraldton–Wonthalla, Joondalup, Kununurra, Maddington (2), Malaga (2), Neerabup, Perth International Airport, Picton.

RTOs in any area are welcome to apply through an open tender process to the Department of Transport to become authorised RTO providers, to provide services throughout the state, to train and conduct PDAs for HR, HC and MC classes.
- (b) Not applicable
- (c) (i)–(iii) RTO providers will determine.
(iv) Costs will be borne by the RTO provider.