

TAXIS, PEAK PERIOD AND MULTIPURPOSE PLATES

**45. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:**

On 25 November 1999 the minister wrote to all taxi operators advising them that all future peak period taxis would be tendered for four years and multipurpose taxis for five years.

- (1) Can the minister explain why the peak period and MPT plates issued this year were not issued on this basis?
- (2) How many MPT and peak period plates have been issued this year?
- (3) When does the minister propose to release more of these plates?

**Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) An outcome from the national competition policy review of the taxi industry conducted last year was for future taxi plates to be issued with a fixed life. However, subsequent legal advice indicated there was no provision within the Taxi Act to set a maximum life for taxi plates.
- (2) The Department of Transport has issued 20 MPT and 30 peak plates this year.
- (3) As an outcome of the national competition review, 50 additional multipurpose taxis and 100 additional peak period taxi plates were tendered. However, the number of successful tenders was lower than the number of plates offered. Transport will monitor the impact of results from the tenders and where additional plates are required to meet the customer demand they will be tendered.