

SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTORS, CONTRACTS

1278. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Housing and Works:

The Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure announced agreements to extend the school bus contracts to 20 to 25 years.

- (1) Does this comply with State Supply Commission guidelines?
- (2) If not, will the minister waive the guidelines to accommodate the contracts?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1)-(2) The decision on the contracts that will now be available for bus contractors was referred to the State Supply Commission. The State Supply Commission supported the department that sought that particular contract length and arrangement. I forget the terminology and cannot remember whether it was expressed as an exemption from the policy or whether the State Supply Commission had been consulted and agreed, in the circumstances, to grant support for the contractor.

Hon Murray Criddle: Can you get that to us?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I will find the correct words and make them available. It was not an issue for which my approval needed to be sought. The State Supply Commission was asked to comment on the proposal and it provided its comment, which may have been expressed in the form of an exemption from the policy. I will get back to the member about the words that were used by the Supply Commission.