

TOW TRUCK OPERATORS, POLICE CHECKS

**345. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport:**

On 16 August this year the minister advised the House that the tow truck regulations required that individuals operating in the industry needed police checks to ensure that they are fit and proper persons.

- (1) Where in the regulations does such a provision exist?
- (2) If no such provision exists can the minister now say whether Main Roads WA obtained police checks before it awarded contract No 03/00?
- (3) As the minister responsible for regulating the tow truck industry, can the minister advise whether it is government policy that it is acceptable for tow truck companies to be owned and run by members of motorcycle gangs?

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

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(3) As part of the tender process for contract No 03/00 Main Roads WA obtained police certificates for Auto Care Towing Services' tow truck operators, including the firm's three directors. For the member's information I clarify my answer to question without notice 67 on 16 August: Auto Care and its tow truck operators are licensed to operate under the provisions of tow truck regulations. I confirm that as part of the tender process for contract No 03/00, Main Roads obtained police certificates for Auto Care Towing Services' tow truck operators, including the firm's three directors. Under the current tow truck regulations there is no requirement for police checks to be undertaken on prospective tow truck operators. However, the Department of Transport is aware of the need to ensure that an individual applying for a tow truck operator's licence is a fit and proper person, and it is looking at mechanisms to ensure tighter control in this area.