

MAIN ROADS WA, CONTRACTING OUT POLICY

375. Hon BOB THOMAS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Was the minister approached by Bunbury businessman Nathan Wood concerning his business Westoz Contracting and Hire regarding his complaint that Main Roads contractors are not willing to use small locally-based hire firms and that his company has been displaced in the industry by the Government's decision to disband Main Roads?
- (2) Did the minister simply refer Mr Wood back to his local member? If yes, why?
- (3) What steps are being taken to assist the many small firms that have been similarly hit by Main Roads' contracting out policies?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1)-(3) A number of people have raised this issue. The usual response has been to make arrangements to talk to the new contractor in the area. I intend to continue doing that, because tenders often become available in the area. A number of tenders have been let that could be of advantage to local contractors. It is a matter of these people contacting the local contractors. In fact, it is very rare that these approaches are made. In some cases these people have found themselves in this situation as a result of events over a number of years.