

VEHICLE LICENSING - SYSTEM UNDER PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT

**501. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Local Government:**

Given the minister's claim in Parliament this afternoon that the vehicle licensing system was in disarray under the previous government, what evidence does she have of that?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

In short, I have visited and spoken to managers and workers at the following licensing centres: Midland, Joondalup, Warwick, East Perth, O'Connor, Rockingham, Welshpool and Kalgoorlie. It has become very apparent that the licensing part of what is now the Department for Planning and Infrastructure has been in a decline for quite some time.

**Hon Murray Criddle:** Six years.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** No, not six years. It was previously a function that was performed by Western Australia Police. There was a view that it had probably not been appropriately funded while under the authority of the police because it was not seen to be front-line servicing and, consequently, was not given the attention it required. The people I spoke to indicated that, during the term of the Court government, a number of licensing inspection stations were in fact sold. That reduction in the available capacity over a number of years, combined with the increased pressure caused by population growth, has caused the government to take the action it has taken. I was asked how many centres there are in the metropolitan area. There are nine metropolitan licensing centres and six metropolitan vehicle inspection centres. For many years, approved inspection stations have operated in rural and regional areas, of which there are currently 240.

In relation to the question of expressions of interest, the weekend's advertisement attracted 74 inquiries and, as of today, 74 packages have been posted.