

BUSES, COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS

154. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the Department of Transport still has a contract with Transcom, now AEC, to convert 100 Renault bus engines to run on compressed natural gas? If yes -
- (2) Who arranged the contract?
- (3) What is the total value of the contract?
- (4) When will the buses be converted?
- (5) If no contract is in place, when was the contract rescinded and has it been replaced by a new contract or trade-off agreement and if so, can the minister describe the new arrangement?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) Yes. Transport still has a contract to convert Renault buses to compressed natural gas.
- (2) The contract was arranged by a legal firm on behalf of AEC and Transport.
- (3) It is \$3 050 000.
- (4) Only 10 buses have been converted. It is not envisaged that further conversion of Renault buses will take place since Mercedes-Benz is now the supplier of buses to Transport.
- (5) Transport is currently negotiating to convert Mercedes engines in lieu of Renault. The new agreement will rescind the existing agreement. As previously advised it is planned to convert five gas buses and orders have been placed with Mercedes. Initially, three Mercedes engines will be converted and tested in Germany for compliance with Euro III exhaust emissions. If these engines successfully meet the Euro III standard, they will be fitted into Transperth 0405 Mercedes buses and their performance compared with Mercedes diesel engine and Mercedes' own gas engine.