

DRIVERS' LICENCES, TESTING IN REGIONAL AREAS

**616. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

Can people in regional areas access testing for the provision of heavy combination and multicomination vehicle drivers' licences?

**Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of question. In view of the succinctness of the question and the length of the answer, I seek leave to table the answer and have it incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated -

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The Department for Planning and Infrastructure and its authorised external service providers provide heavy combination testing in regional areas of Broome, South Hedland, Karratha, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Gingin, Moora, Northam, Narrogin, Bunbury, Busselton, Albany and Esperance.

Other regional areas within the state are serviced by the WA Police Service.

On occasions when specific needs of customers arise, the department will make special arrangements. For example, it may be that a number of candidates require assessment in a specific location and the department will always try to accommodate this.

Another example occurred during last year's record grain harvest where a combination of DPI personnel, authorised providers and contract providers in Northam and Merredin provided special assessment services for heavy licence candidates in a number of towns throughout the Wheatbelt region.

Each application is individually assessed by the Department to best meet the customer's needs.

Multi combination training and assessment is fully outsourced to providers authorised by the Department. All four providers are based in the metropolitan area, although one has an office in Bunbury to service the southwest.

These companies provide training and assessment at regional locations based upon supply and demand.

Available statistics indicate that in excess of 700 heavy and multi combination assessments were conducted by DPI staff and external service providers in country WA between 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.

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