

ROAD TRANSPORT, HEAVY-HAULAGE LICENCE HOLDERS

1332. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

- (1) What initiatives have been put in place to allow former heavy-haulage licence holders to re-enter the road transport industry during the current harvest season?
- (2) Are any plans or proposals being considered to alleviate the chronic shortage of heavy-combination and multi-combination drivers licence holders in the heavy-haulage industry?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Representatives of the Western Australian Farmers Federation have met with senior staff of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure to discuss ways of alleviating the shortage of suitably qualified drivers to assist in grain carting. The department is considering initiatives that would allow former heavy-haulage licence holders to re-enter the transport industry during the current harvest season.

Hon Murray Criddle: By the way, it started last Monday.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: The member should have had his bright idea earlier.

Hon Murray Criddle: I had it weeks ago. Read the paper.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I continue -

- (2) The Department for Planning and Infrastructure is working with the Transport Forum WA to collate information on heavy vehicle drivers. This information will assist in identifying the extent of the problem regarding the shortage of heavy vehicle drivers and allow government to work with industry to develop effective strategies to address the issues.