

ROAD TRAIN USAGE — MAIN ROADS EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES POLICY

799. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the decision by Main Roads Western Australia to extend the allowance for greater road train movement to assist pastoralists.

- (1) Can the minister table details of the extension?
- (2) How far south of Geraldton will road trains be allowed to operate under this exemption?
- (3) Will road trains be restricted to operate on particular roads outside of the affected shires listed in the Minister for Agriculture and Food's press release of 11 October 2010; and, if yes, which roads?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Main Roads exceptional circumstances policy enables the issue of special permits for freight operations involving the provision of drought relief subject to conditions. This policy has been in operation in relation to the dry conditions being reported in the north west since March 2010. After consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Food, the availability of the special permits issued under the exceptional circumstances policy has been extended through to 1 December 2010.
- (2) Due to the exceptionally dry conditions experienced within the Pilbara, Murchison and Gascoyne regions, these special permits allow 53.5-metre road trains to transport livestock out of these areas south to Regans Ford on the Brand Highway and to transport stockfeed back.
- (3) The exceptional circumstances policy allows 53.5-metre road trains transporting livestock or animal feed to travel south of the Ogilvie feedlots on the North West Coastal Highway as far south as Regans Ford on the Brand Highway. Part of this route involves travel on two local roads—Goulds Road and Rudds Gully Road—in the City of Geraldton—Greenough.