



Speech by

Hon. PAUL LUCAS MP

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Hansard 22 April 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Drivers Licences

Hon. P. T. LUCAS (Lytton—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 a.m.): I wish to inform the House of strict new guidelines that have come into effect this week in Queensland that are designed to stop drivers licence fraud. Identity fraud cost Australia more than \$1 billion in 2001-02. A drivers licence is widely acceptable as a reliable form of identification, but as a responsible government we must ensure steps are taken to protect licence holders from fraud. That is why this week I have introduced a new identification system for the issuing of new or replacement licences.

From now on, people will need at least three pieces of original identification for a new or replacement licence, or if you wish to change your name. Photocopies will no longer be accepted. This will not apply to ordinary licence renewals unless the existing licence is more than two years out of date. Anyone changing their name will also have to provide an official marriage or change of name certificate from an Australian registry of births, deaths and marriages. Queensland Transport will no longer accept wedding certificates from churches or celebrants.

There will also be specific arrangements to take into account the particular circumstances of school students. The sad fact is that we live in a very ugly world amid threats of terrorism and organised crime. I know these guidelines will be inconvenient for some Queenslanders, but I would like to thank them for their patience and understanding. Taking that little extra time on security measures and appropriate documentation might help stop a criminal use identity fraud in a major crime or worse.

Queensland is the first state to introduce these new guidelines which are part of a national framework that has been developed to ensure consistency across states. In this national approach we are also establishing a Person of Interest Unit in Queensland Transport to record specific data on identity and licence fraud. Identity fraud is an Australia-wide issue and it is important that this government keeps up the fight against it.

We are also moving towards the introduction of a new digital drivers licence in 2006 which will store information on a computer chip on the licence. This will also have identity and licence fraud safeguards. People who want more information about these new guidelines can visit the government web site or contact Queensland Transport or visit a Queensland Transport customer service centre.