

**Question on Notice
No. 806
Asked on 17 August 2004**

QUESTION:

MR FOLEY asked the Minister for the Environment (Mr Mickel)—

With reference to a constituent who needs to drive his truck through various national parks and some forestry roads and he now has to get permits from individual offices, which is a huge cost and time impost, where he used to be able to get permits for all areas from a single office—

In this day and age of computer networking, will he change the system to allow permits for multiple areas to be obtained from any office?

ANSWER:

Section 72 of the *Forestry Act 1959* requires that a permit be obtained to traverse any part of a State Forest (other than forest drives) with vehicles, teams, horses or other animals. Permits to traverse are free to licensed drivers with registered vehicles (including motorcycles) and are available from Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPWS) offices.

Permits to traverse are issued from QPWS offices throughout Queensland. Most are valid for the life of the customer's driver's licence or the expiry of the vehicle's registration i.e. for a maximum of one year. There is no cost to the applicant to obtain a permit to traverse.

There have been no recent changes to the permit to traverse policy that would require changes to customer services. It may be that administrative arrangements have changed regarding some of the forest areas traversed by this constituent but if he makes it clear to staff that his permit request spans more than one administrative district then his application will be processed as a "one stop shop" i.e. at one location with liaison between offices done by departmental staff.