

Question on Notice

No. 440

Asked on 24 March 2005

MR FOLEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to a Certificate of Inspection (COI) required every two years, I understand that if a registration is due by 1 February 2005 but the COI is current until the 14 February 2005 – the fact that a COI is due does not show on the registration paper for 1 February 2005. If a farmer is not up to scratch with his timeframes (and not many of them are) he is then driving an unregistered vehicle as it does not have a current COI – but they would not be notified until eleven and a half months later when it appears on the next registration payment due advice – As a constituent of mine received an infringement notice for driving an unregistered vehicle because he did not have a COI and the transport inspector showed him a heap of other infringement notices because other drivers were not aware their COI had become due, will he fix this anomaly?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question. Under Queensland Transport's Vehicle Inspection Program, motor vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Mass over 4.5 tonnes up to and including 16 tonnes, and trailers with an Aggregate Trailer Mass over 3.5 tonnes up to and including 10 tonnes are subjected to regular inspections by an Approved Inspection Station. Any motor vehicle or trailer over this weight is required to be inspected by a Queensland Transport inspector.

As a courtesy, Queensland Transport issues a Certificate of Inspection Renewal Notice Reminder for QT inspectable heavy motor vehicles and trailers. The notice is computer generated and sent to the registered operator 6 weeks before the Certificate of Inspection's expiry date.

At all times during the currency of a vehicle's registration, the onus is on the registered operator to ensure their vehicle is in a safe condition to be used on the road. A Certificate of Inspection provides this assurance for all road users. The use of these vehicles on the road without a current Certificate of Inspection is an offence and as a deterrent a fine will be issued. In addition, a vehicle's registration is also unable to be renewed unless a current Certificate of Inspection is recorded on the vehicle register.

Registered operators of all heavy vehicles are continually reminded of their inspection obligations in the form of a message printed on the Inspectable Vehicle Registration Renewal Notice. Depending on the registration periods selected by the registered operator a notice may be generated at 3, 6 or 12 monthly intervals. For example, if a 3 month registration period is continually selected, the registered operator will be reminded 4 times throughout a 12 month period.

It is simply good business practice for QT customers, including farmers, to have systems in place to ensure their vehicles are inspected at the appropriate time. With 171,240 inspectable vehicles on register in Queensland the majority meet their obligations.