

Question on Notice

No. 599

Asked on 10 May 2005

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

QUESTION:

What is the anticipated date for the installation of safety cameras in taxis?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Bulimba for his question on this important Beattie Government initiative that is all about increasing the safety of taxi drivers and passengers, and also protecting the viability of the hard working taxi industry.

Interstate and overseas experience has proven that this technology is effective in reducing crimes like robberies and attacks and this increased safety assists with retention of taxi drivers.

Victoria experienced a decrease in robbery (by 51%), fare evasion (by 42%) and assaults (by 12%). There have been similar results in New South Wales and Western Australia.

At the same time, the camera technology is secure with controls on access to the images taken by the cameras.

The Beattie Government is making \$8m available to fund this project.

The Honourable Peter Beattie MP, Premier and Minister for Trade and I announced just before Easter the release of the tender to supply and install security cameras in about 2,900 taxis across Queensland.

I am pleased to say there has been considerable interest from potential suppliers from across Australia and overseas for the tender.

Tenders closed on 27 April 2005 and the evaluation teams will be working over the next month evaluating the tenders and products and establishing the best value for money product(s).

The evaluation teams consist of Departmental officers, taxi industry representatives along with technical and financial experts.

A roll-out plan is to be developed with the successful tenderer(s). The roll-out of security cameras in taxis is expected to commence once the contract(s) and roll-out plan have been finalised. The fitting of security cameras to all of these taxis will not happen over night and suppliers will need to tool up for such a large scale installation program.

Yellow Cabs and Black and White Cabs of Brisbane service the Bulimba electorate and together comprise of about 1,600 taxis - more than half of the taxis in Queensland to be fitted with security cameras.