

**Question on Notice**

**No. 820**

**Asked on 24 May 2006**

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

QUESTION:

What is his department's policy regarding Registration Renewal Reinstatement Fees which were incurred by vehicle owners whose registrations expired on weekends or public holidays?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question-

A registered operator's obligation to renew a vehicle's registration falls on the next business day where the expiry date falls on a non-business day. In other words, the registration renewal reinstatement fee does not apply where a vehicle's registration falls due on a weekend or public holiday, and the registered operator renews the registration on the next business day. This policy is in accordance with section 38 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*.

As a result of concerns raised by the Queensland Ombudsman, Queensland Transport investigated the matter further and received definitive advice from the Solicitor-General in April 2006 about how the fees could be collected. Immediate action was taken to advise the community and ensure that the system was fixed and that refunds for payments incorrectly collected prior to this advice were made. Refunds have now been made for approximately 128,000 payments and total about \$4.5 million. The refund only applied to about 7% of payments. The other 93% were correctly collected.