

Question on Notice

No. 95

Asked on Thursday 8 February 2007

MR FENLON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the new Queensland Drivers Licence initiative—
What benefits will this new licence have for Queensland drivers?

ANSWER:

I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question and am pleased to provide the following information.

The benefits of a new driver licence will be to meet the community demands for improved protection against fraud and identity theft with the highest level of integrity and security available in relation to licensing.

The current license is increasingly vulnerable to fraud and is the most frequently identified (61%) of all fraudulent documents in Australia, commonly used for establishing false identities. Identity fraud is conservatively estimated to cost Australians approximately \$1.1 billion every year.

The new licence will be a plastic credit card-sized smartcard featuring a range of security features. These include a digital photograph on the card face and a computer chip containing a limited amount of driver licensing information.

Simply progressing to a plastic card with a digital photograph without a smart chip, as used in the other Australian states, which has been fraudulently reproduced, represents a lost opportunity as well as a poor investment decision.

Smartcards offer the most secure technology currently on the market and will provide a driver licence that is harder to forge, while also keeping licence details more secure.

QT is leading the Smartcard Licence Interoperability Protocol (SLIP) which is a national working group to actively engage driver licensing agencies from other states and territories in the joint development of common standards for future smartcard driver licences in Australia and potentially New Zealand.

In addition QT is also actively participating in the development of the Australian Government Smartcard Framework business and technical standards, to achieve interoperability between smartcard driver licences and other future government issued smartcards used in the community, for example the Access Card.

A key feature of the New Queensland Driver Licence is that information contained on the chip will be protected by a four digit PIN set by the licence holder.

The Queensland Government values the privacy of all Queenslanders and has made privacy a high priority throughout the development of the New Queensland Driver Licence. The government is committed to ensuring that licence holders, and Queenslanders generally, are confident that their privacy will not be compromised by unauthorised access or misuse of their personal information, and that their rights are protected in relation to the authenticity, quality and ownership of their personal information.

Measures will be introduced to ensure personal information is managed and consumers are able to appropriately exercise their privacy rights in compliance with Information Standard 42. In addition, a rigorous complaints management and monitoring process will be implemented by Queensland Transport.

To this end the proposed NQDL smartcard offers Queenslanders a quantum leap in the security of their driver licence and identity protection.