



End in sight for agricultural machinery red tape

FARMERS and dealers who have been bogged down in red tape every time they need to move vehicles off their properties will soon be looking down an open road.

The reform process, which will eliminate the need for permits for each off-farm movement, and will expand permissible towing combinations, is nearing completion.

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis, who has lobbied actively for the changes to ease the paperwork burden on farmers and dealers, is keen to see the simplified process ready in time for the current harvest season.

“The Minister for Transport has indicated that the reform process was more complicated than initially anticipated and has taken longer than expected,” Mr

Ellis said.

“With the harvest season looming, I will be urging the minister to make sure the final stage of the process is given a firm shove in the right direction.”

The reforms, initiated by industry groups working in conjunction with the Department of Transport, include allowing agricultural machinery dealers and other authorised personnel including contractors and prospective buyers to move machinery under a trade plate without needing to apply for permits every time the machine had to be moved; changes to allow licensed vehicles to be towed as part of an agricultural towing combination including fuel trailers and motor vehicles under A-frame towing; and formal clarification of rules governing movement of farm

plate vehicles with the aim of allowing more freedom for use of such vehicles between farm properties.

“As part of a grain-growing family which operates across two separate properties, I have a first-hand understanding of the frustrations of people who need a permit every time they want to move machinery between farms,” Mr Ellis said.

He paid tribute to reform efforts of the Agricultural Vehicles Advisory Committee, which included contributions from the Farm Machinery Dealers Association, WA Farmers Federation, the Motor Trades associations and the Ministerial Heavy Vehicle Advisory Panel.



Open road: Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis, who is from a grain growing family, has first-hand knowledge of growers' frustrations to obtain permits when moving machinery between farms.