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**Wednesday December 5, 2012**

## **Department will struggle with new cutbacks says union**

Frontline services at the Department of Transport will be reduced by at least 50 staff to meet crippling budget measures imposed by the Barnett Government this year.

The cuts will be made in the Driver and Vehicle Services division which covers all licensing centres in the metropolitan area, vehicle examination centres, the auditing section, a call centre and passenger services.

An internal memo to senior management within the department in November said the new capped staff limit was significantly short of what is required by the unit to operate satisfactorily.

The reduction of 50 staff will include 16 staff from a temporary agency.

Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association Branch Secretary Toni Walkington said it was another example of government agencies struggling to deal with budget cutbacks and staff freezes.

“When they announced these cutbacks the Barnett Government said frontline services would not be affected which has to be challenged,” Ms Walkington said.

“From the recent meetings we have had with government ministers it is obvious they are not getting the true picture of what is happening on the frontline.

“The reality is frontline services are being affected and already licensing centres are understaffed.

“If the department is forced to make more cutbacks then waiting times will blowout for driver tests and queues will be longer at the counters.”

Ms Walkington said driving instructors were already working on their days off to clear the backlog of driver assessments at some metropolitan centres.

The CPSU/CSA understands that all overtime will be stopped immediately except for practical driving assessments that have already been booked in advance by customers and areas where necessary only.

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Ms Walkington said that would eventually lead to longer wait times for driver assessments.

**FOR COMMENT:**

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