



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

The Cabinet Office

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Statement by the Hon. Derrick Burgess, J.P., M.P., Deputy Premier and Minister of Transport

Moratorium on Water Truck Licences

The Ministry of Transport continues to apply innovative ways to absorb the adversarial arrows of this financial downturn which are aimed toward small business owners. My focus today is on the water trucking industry which is known for its dedicated operators who are no strangers to hard work, long hours and attentive responses to the needs of their clients. Water truck operators provide a wide variety of services from delivering water to maintaining water tanks and so much more.

Over the years the provision of water in Bermuda has evolved to include underground piped in services which will soon span the island, reaching key areas in the market. Technology has also visited this industry with some of the newer larger trucks carrying up to two and a half times the load of the traditional truck. The impact of advancement should not impede progress for those already in the industry. Currently, the cost of a water truck permit is \$65,000 and the annual licencing fee averages about \$1,000, depending on the class of the vehicle. With forty-five (45) registered water trucks in Bermuda and the emerging piped in water service, some water truck owners will face a decline in market share. The Ministry of Transport will be placing a moratorium on issuing new water truck permits in an effort to bring some stability to the market and minimize the impact of fluctuations in individual market share.

Careful monitoring of this sector will be implemented over the course of the next three years in order to examine the effectiveness of the moratorium on individual water truck business owners. It is the goal of the Ministry to remain both flexible and responsive to the concerns and needs of the people of Bermuda who are committed to providing much needed services to the community. It is our expectation that this move will give existing owners the boost they need to remain fruitful in an ever changing economy.