

Care Park given private details

Registry forced to provide names and addresses

By ZARA DAWTREY

THE TASMANIAN Motor Registry is being forced to provide names and addresses to a private car park operator.

A State Government spokesman yesterday confirmed that the details of 1828 Tasmanian registered vehicle operators — and alleged parking fee defaulters — had so far been provided to Care Park.

The company has a significant presence in Launceston, owning six major car parks and operating 27 other parking areas.

It also manages 11 shops within its Quadrant Plaza Shopping Centre.

Questions have been raised over how Care Park was tracking down fee defaulters, armed only with vehicle registration numbers.

But the Government spokesman told The Examiner that the company had successfully sought two court orders in the Victorian Magistrates Court, which were then registered in the Tasmanian Magistrates Court.

“The Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources has held concerns about the use of its data by a private company, and had previously refused several requests from Care Park for information,” the spokesman said yesterday.

“However, the department has received legal advice that it is obligated by law to provide registered operator information to Care Park when such an order is registered.”

In the past two weeks, several Northern motorists have contacted The Examiner after they received a letter from Care Park

demanding hundreds of dollars in default fees within 10 days.

The company’s annual turnover is about \$45 million.

Care Park has previously compared parking without paying to walking into a shop and stealing something.

It says the terms and conditions of the use of its car parks are clearly displayed at each property.

The Government spokesman said DIER did not provide Care Park with access to its database, and only provided information relating to a specific enquiry.

“DIER has requested that Care Park provide details of the business processes it has in place to ensure that confidentiality is maintained,” he said.

“This has been provided.”