

CORONAVIRUS — REGIONAL FLIGHTS

244. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the ongoing and potential future impacts of COVID-19 on regional air services.

- (1) Has the government been in discussions with Western Australian airline operators regarding any impacts to their services?
- (2) If yes to (1), when did these discussions take place and what were the outcomes of these discussions?
- (3) Have any airlines indicated that they will reduce services or be unable to continue operating routes in regional WA; and, if so, please provide the details on which routes will be impacted?
- (4) If any routes become unviable for operators due to COVID-19, what measures will the state government put in place to ensure that essential services are still able to fly to regional areas?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Transport.

- (1)–(4) Yes. While this is a frequently evolving situation, the Department of Transport advises that there are currently no major specific changes to schedules or airlines that are operating on regional air routes in Western Australia. The state government acknowledges the significant challenges being faced by the aviation industry across Australia and supports the federal government’s announcement of a \$715 million package for domestic airlines. The state government will continue to liaise closely with airlines to work through aviation impacts resulting from COVID-19.