

TRANSPORT — PLASTIC RAIL SLEEPERS

760. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With the construction of Metronet underway and with many railway lines in the south west in need of upgrade or repair, has the government considered investing in composite recycled plastic railway sleepers, as the Victorian state government has done?
- (2) If yes to (1), could the minister provide some details?
- (3) If no to (1), would the government look at making such an investment in the future, given that the Victorian venture is currently struggling to meet the high demand from consumers and government? Such an investment could help a regional town like Collie transition from coal into a new green industry that benefits all.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1)–(3) The Public Transport Authority is aware of the trials of plastic rail sleepers that are either underway or being considered in Victoria and Queensland, and is watching the outcomes of these trials. This will assist in determining whether a trial should be considered in Western Australia.