

CORONAVIRUS — GOVERNMENT TRAVEL — REGIONAL TRAVEL AGENCIES

620. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the ongoing impacts on regional businesses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular regionally based travel agencies.

- (1) Is it mandatory that all government agencies use the government's contracted service provider, Corporate Travel Management, for the purpose of booking domestic air travel for regional personnel and users of state-funded subsidised travel schemes?
- (2) If yes to (1), is the state government prepared to issue an exemption such that state government agencies can use regionally based travel agencies?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) If no to (1), why are state government personnel still being directed by their respective agencies to use a Queensland-based company in preference to supporting local and regionally based travel agencies during these difficult times?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes. The common-use arrangement is mandatory for all Western Australian public authorities for domestic air travel bookings on regular passenger transport routes. This contract does not cover state-funded subsidies for regional citizens travelling in a private capacity.
- (2) Public authorities with branch offices in regional WA can use regionally based travel agencies via a regional purchasing discretion, in accordance with the government's Buy Local policy. In addition, any public authority's accountable authority or delegate may request an exemption from the common-use arrangement from the Department of Finance.
- (3)–(4) Not applicable.