

ROAD SAFETY — DUNSBOROUGH–BUSSELTON — GREEN SCHOOL BUSES

631. Hon COLIN HOLT to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the minister aware that, currently, green school buses are travelling between Busselton and Dunsborough on roads with a speed limit of 110 kilometres an hour?
- (2) Does the minister believe that using green buses on these routes complies with Public Transport Authority standards?
- (3) Is the minister aware that many schoolchildren are sitting on the floor and standing on these buses while travelling at speeds around 100 kilometres an hour?
- (4) Does the minister believe that orange school buses would provide a safer alternative for Dunsborough schoolchildren?
- (5) Are fully laden school buses ever put over a weighbridge to check compliance with weight allowances?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1)–(2) Yes—as did the previous Liberal–National government that obviously made no changes to the type of buses used on these routes.
- (3) The buses used on the Dunsborough to Busselton bus service are equipped with seating for 42 adult passengers and standing room for another 40 passengers, for an overall maximum loading capacity of 82 passengers. I have been advised that the Dunsborough–Busselton bus service currently averages only 32 boardings per trip, with only a few of these trips experiencing standing passengers, with the standing average being two passengers and only one for a small section of the route.
- (4) No. The buses used on the Dunsborough–Busselton bus service are designed in compliance with Australian Design Rules. Compliance with the ADR ensures that the buses are appropriately designed and constructed for the safe carriage of both seated and standing passengers on any public road, irrespective of location or speed limit.
- (5) No.