

STATE SHIP — WYNDHAM, BROOME AND DARWIN VISITS

402. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) On what dates has a state ship visited the ports of Wyndham or Broome since 1 January 2011?
- (2) Does the contract with the state ship supplier require it to provide a regular scheduled service to these ports; and, if yes, what is the frequency that it is required to meet?
- (3) Does the contract require the state ship to visit Darwin; and, if yes, how often?
- (4) Has the state ship met its required frequency of visits to these ports in 2011; and, if no, why not?
- (5) Does the contract with the state ship supplier include any penalties for failing to meet a required frequency of visits; and, if yes, what is the penalty, and have any penalties been applied?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) On 22 January, 5–6 March, 13 April and 18 May 2011; and on 29 January, 8 March, 8 April and 13 May 2011. I think the first dates are in respect of the first port, and the second dates are in respect of the second port. I think that is the way that answer is constructed.
- (2) Yes, with a 17-day frequency or better.
- (3) No.
- (4) The service has not met all its contractual obligations in respect of frequency of port calls due to a number of operational problems with the vessel itself and its subcontracted management. New arrangements are being put in place involving a new vessel and direct management by the service provider.
- (5) The contract defines a number of penalties for delays to the service. When the service provider has not met the required schedule of port calls, payment has been withheld for the relevant period.