

SMARTRIDER — MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

679. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Premier

- (1) Is the Transperth SmartRider able to be offset against Members of Parliament vehicles allowances; and
 - (a) if not, why not?
- (2) Has any investigation been undertaken of financial or environmental benefits of trading off vehicle entitlements against public transport use?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal's determinations provide Members of Parliament with the flexibility to use their electorate and other allowances for a variety of transport modes, including public transport. For example, under Part 3 Section 4 of the Tribunal's determination, Members may choose to forgo their entitlement to a motor vehicle and be paid \$17,800 per annum which can be utilised as the Members see fit. In addition, under the provisions of Part 4 Section 2, the Charter Transport Allowance applying to certain Members representing country electorates, may be used to access a wide variety of transport modes including "charter aircraft, drive yourself vehicles, hire of driver, hire of taxis, and such other modes of transport as may be approved as appropriate in the circumstances by the Tribunal." This provision is sufficiently broad for the Tribunal to approve public transport such as rail or coach services for country Members. Furthermore, all Members can use their electorate allowances as they see fit in undertaking their parliamentary and electorate duties.

In view of the above, there is no need for Members of Parliament to trade off motor vehicle entitlements against public transport and any decision to utilise public transport is entirely at the discretion of each Member according to their particular parliamentary and electorate needs.