

PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES SUBSIDY

**727. Hon KEN BASTON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

I refer to page 665 of volume 2 of the budget papers, which refers to a major initiative for 2006-07 and states -

Develop a policy to determine the rationale for government involvement in subsidising passenger services (both air and land) in regional areas of Western Australia.

- (1) Has a working group been established to determine the rationale; and, if not, why not?
- (2) If a working group has been established, what is the membership of the working group and will there be stakeholder consultation; if not, why not; and, if so, with whom?
- (3) What progress has been made in determining this policy-rationale?

**Hon ADELE FARINA replied:**

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

- (1)-(3) The initiative is in the early stages of development, and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure is working on an internal paper to formalise the stages needed to progress this policy. There will be full consultation with stakeholders, including, but not limited to, local councils, community groups and state government agencies, including regional development commissions.