

METROPOLITAN RAIL NETWORK — MAINTENANCE

65. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the equipment that caught fire on Tuesday last week and caused the shutdown of the rail system?
- (2) What was the equipment that caught fire today and caused the shutdown of the rail system on the Fremantle and Midland lines?
- (3) For each of these incidents —
 - (a) how old was the equipment that caught fire; and
 - (b) is the equipment regularly inspected, and, if yes, how often?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of this question. The Public Transport Authority advises —

- (1) A high voltage return conductor cable.
- (2) A surge arrester on the booster transformer.
- (3) For the incident on 13 March, the equipment is from 2007; and, yes, the equipment is inspected every year. In addition, it is subject to a visual check when crews are in the area. For the incident on 20 March, today, the equipment is from 1989; and, yes, the booster transformers and associated surge arresters undergo a specific inspection every year. In addition, they are subject to a visual check when crews are in the area. These checks are approximately every three months. Routine maintenance is undertaken on the booster transformers every four years.