

RED BULL AIR RACE — FERRY MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

2303. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Transport

- (1) Is the Minister aware that in the two days prior to the Red Bull Air Race, there were restrictions placed on the movements of commercial ferries operating between Barrack Square and both the Narrows Bridge and the Causeway, creating delays of up to 45 minutes?
- (2) What was the purpose of restrictions on privately owned commercial ferry operators?
- (3) Were Transperth Ferries travelling between Barrack Square and Mends Street required to meet the same restrictions as commercial ferries?
- (4) If no to (3), why did they not apply to Government operated ferries?
- (5) Were Transperth Ferries allowed to travel closer to the Air Race course than commercial ferries, including directly under the flight path?
- (6) Is this a demonstration of the lack of support by the Barnett Government for small business in Western Australia?
- (7) If no to (6), what action will the Minister take to ensure that privately owned ferry services are not treated differently to Transperth Ferries in the future?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
During the four days of the event, there were some unavoidable delays to some commercial vessels operating out of the Barrack Street wharf complex. These delays were while Marine Safety command requested and waited for clearance permission from the Red Bull tower. From reports received the greatest delay was approximately 25 minutes in duration.
- (2) The purpose of the restrictions were to enable Marine Safety to have the waters lawfully closed and then under strict control conditions to allow vessels to navigate in certain areas of these waters while not impeding the air race zones. These restrictions were risk mitigation measures imposed in the interest of public safety.
- (3)-(4) Restrictions were placed on the operation of both the commercial and Transperth ferries during the Red Bull Air Race. These restrictions varied according to the nature of the operation of the commercial and Transperth ferries. Transperth ferries conduct a dedicated cross river run with little or no chance of them impeding the air race zones.
- (5) Transperth ferries were permitted to travel on their normal cross river route along the dedicated channel between Barrack Street and Mends Street wharf complexes until midday Sat 17 April. Other commercial vessels were permitted to navigate across this channel with permission and under the control of Marine Safety. This channel was, at times, under the flight path but so were many sections of Perth Waters including the private and commercial vessel holding / viewing areas.
- (6) No, all vessels were required to comply with standard operational control safety measure to mitigate the risks associated with an event of this type and these were imposed in the interests of public safety.
- (7) There is no intention at this stage to change the current on-water event management procedures.