

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY — 2017–18 STATE BUDGET — OPERATING SUBSIDY

2145. Mrs L.M. Harvey to the Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands:

In relation to the operating subsidy paid to the Public Transport Authority that increases by 4.98 percent in 2017–2018, then 2.4 percent in 2018–2019, 4.7 percent in 2019–2020 and 3percent in 2020–2021, I ask:

- (a) what is the operating subsidy composed of/how is it allocated;
- (b) what is the reason for the fluctuations in the expected percentage increases;
- (c) are these estimates based on modelling of patronage numbers, if so, will you table this informaiton; and
- (d) why is it expected that there would be such a significant decrease in the operating subsidy required between 2017–2018 and 2018–2019?

Ms R. Saffioti replied:

- (a) The Operating Subsidy funds the gap between income and approved expense limit excluding depreciation, it is allocated to service 1, 2, 3 and 4 on pages 635 to 637 of Budget Paper 2.
- (b) The fluctuations are due to the various spending changes outlined in the “Spending Changes” section of Budget Paper 2 on page 631.
- (c) No, the estimates are mainly service cost driven, i.e. number of service days, service hours, service kilometres and asset maintenance are the main drivers.
- (d) The operating subsidy growth percentage change will vary from year to year due to the various spending changes outlined in the “Spending Changes” section of Budget Paper 2 on page 631.