

TAXI PLATES — RELEASE

1107. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to your announcement on 9 April 2011 that you would release 30 additional taxi plates.

- (1) On what date were they allocated?
- (2) On what date did the first of these taxis commence providing services to the public?
- (3) On what date did the last of these taxis commence providing services to the public?
- (4) How many peak-period taxi plates have been issued since 27 September 2011?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. If I may, when you say “I refer to your announcement on 9 April”, to whom are you referring?

Hon Ken Travers: The Minister for Transport.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: The Minister for Transport, who has provided this answer which I am pleased to pass on in a representative capacity.

The action taken by the Liberal–National government in relation to taxis is in stark contrast to the mismanagement and neglect that epitomised the previous Labor government. It is noted that the opposition has sought to stop the Liberal–National government’s release of taxi plates, which would allow more taxis on the road to provide a better service to the community. The disallowance action by the opposition shows an out-of-touch and bitter approach to the issue. The government is looking to overturn this disallowance motion in the Legislative Assembly by using government time to defeat the motion. Once overturned, plates can begin to be released in the interests of providing better service to families and businesses. Labor’s disruptive action may, however, contribute to a shortage of taxis on the road over the Christmas period.

Hon Ken Travers: Does he feel better having got that off his chest?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I should think he would.

- (1) Between 31 March and 9 June 2011.
- (2) 31 March 2011.
- (3) 9 June 2011.
- (4) Nil in the nine-week period referred to by the member, but it should be noted that so far in 2011, 141 taxi plates have been released, the majority of which have been peak-period plates. It should also be noted that there are 2 036 taxi plates on the road, compared with 1 830 under the previous Labor government in 2008. This represents an 11 per cent increase in taxis and signifies the Liberal–National government’s commitment to providing better service to the community.