

INTRASTATE AIR SERVICES

62. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the minister's answer to question without notice 19 regarding intrastate air services.

- (1) Has industry been advised of when a briefing for them will be held; and, if so, what are the details; and, if not, when will they be advised?
- (2) Have the existing operators been advised that their current licences will be extended; and, if yes, until when; and, if no, why not?
- (3) Is the minister aware of concern among stakeholders that the requirement to return proposals by May does not allow sufficient time to attract the broadest possible interest from potential operators?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

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

- (1) No. Interested stakeholders will be briefed on 9 April on the details of the new system. Invitations are to be sent tomorrow.
- (2) No. Any extension to current licences will be influenced by the tender arrangements which are being finalised. Operators will be advised as soon as these arrangements are concluded.
- (3) No. Proposals are not being required by May and tender details have yet to be advertised. I am aware that prospective tenderers require sufficient time to consider their proposals and this will be taken into account in the tender process.