

RAILCARS — COST ESTIMATE

4609. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to the Minister for Transport's comments on 24 March 2011, that thirty new railcars would cost \$330 million, and ask —

- (1) How did the Minister determine this figure?
- (2) What was —
 - (a) included in this cost estimate; and
 - (b) the estimated cost for each component?
- (3) Has the estimated cost of rail cars changed?
- (4) If yes to (3), what is the new cost?
- (5) If yes to (3), why does this figure differ from the previous estimate?
- (6) Did the Minister receive any written advice from the Public Transport Authority on this estimated cost?
- (7) If yes to (6), will the Minister table the written advice?
- (8) If no to (7), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The Member would obviously acknowledge that the purchase of the additional rail cars by the Liberal–National Government at \$164 million represents value for taxpayers.

The Liberal–National Government takes a holistic approach to improving transport rather than the 'pet-project' approach adopted by the previous Labor Government. To this end the Liberal–National Government is investing significantly in rail, bus and road infrastructure.

The Public Transport Authority advises:

- (1)–(2) It is assumed that \$330 million was the figure to which the Shadow Transport Minister referred in his media statement on 24 March 2011 to purchase 30 new trains.
- (3) No, the estimated cost per train has not changed and I have approved the purchase of 15 three railcar set trains at a cost of \$164 million.
- (4)–(5) Not applicable
- (6)–(8) Yes. As part of the budget process and deliberations, the estimated cost to purchase 15 three railcar set trains is \$164 million, an obvious calculation would show that 30 trains would cost approximately \$330 million.