REGIONAL BUS SERVICES — SECURITY

1043.   Hon ADELE FARINA to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the assault of a TransBunbury bus driver on Friday, 11 November 2011 while on duty driving a bus owned by the Public Transport Authority.

(1)   What level of security is provided for —

    (a)   TransBunbury buses; and

    (b)   country buses?

(2)   How much funding has been allocated in the current budget for security, and will the minister provide details of the security measures that are funded, on —

    (a)   TransBunbury buses; and

    (b)   country buses?

(3)   Will the minister act to provide country bus drivers with the same level of security as provided to metropolitan bus drivers?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

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

(1)   (a)   When security incidents occur that require a response, the local police are called. Bunbury bus station is fitted with CCTV cameras, which are monitored on a continual basis. When security concerns have been raised by the TransBunbury bus operator about antisocial behaviour at the Bunbury bus station, a Transperth security vehicle is made available to monitor the situation and to provide a security presence if necessary. Very low levels of antisocial behaviour, if any, have been encountered.

    (b)   The newer TransGoldfields buses operating in Kalgoorlie have on-board CCTV cameras in operation. However, the low level of security incidents experienced means footage is seldom required to be used. A six-month trial of CCTV cameras on board buses in Geraldton will commence in the near future.

(2)   (a)   Nil.

    (b)   The Geraldton trial as described above is to be funded from the regional town bus services operating budget. It is anticipated that the trial will cost approximately $20 000.

(3)   Due to the very low levels of security incidents in regional towns, the deployment of additional security resources is not considered necessary. Security arrangements will be considered by the minister as warranted.