

PERTH PARKING LICENCE FEE INCREASES — NORTHBRIDGE LINK

1097. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

I acknowledge the hardworking cabbies of Western Australia on WA Cabbie Day; I am sure the Minister for Transport will agree with me. I refer to the \$64 million accumulating as a result of the Perth Parking Management Act licence fee increases announced in the state budget.

- (1) Can the minister assure the house that none of this money will be used to fund WA's contribution to the Northbridge Link project, including the new bus terminal?
- (2) If no to (1), can the minister advise the house when he intends to consult the City of Perth on this proposed expenditure?
- (3) If yes to (1), can the minister explain to the house what this money will be spent on and why the government has raised the licence fee when it has no proposals to spend it on?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for his question and, as an opening remark, I acknowledge the good work done by so many cabbies. It is worthwhile acknowledging good performance, as was done today with the awarding of the Cabbie of the Year. We will talk about taxi matters on another occasion I am sure.

- (1) As I have said for months now when asked by Hon Ken Travers and other members sitting alongside him, I am the minister responsible for overseeing the trust account in which these levy moneys reside. As I have already indicated to the house, under law, I will take proper custody of those moneys and they will not be disposed of other than in accordance with the act.
- (2) In relation to what the moneys will be progressively spent on, bearing in mind moneys are coming in all the time and further prospective moneys are to come in, those decisions for cabinet to make, and they will be made in due course and will be made public.
- (3) I refer the member back to the detailed questions and answers I provided to the estimates committee some months ago in response to questions asked by him and Hon Ljiljana Ravlich when that very matter was canvassed in great detail.