

ARMADALE RAILWAY LINE — PASSENGER SAFETY CONCERNS

651. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport
- (1) Is the Minister aware of the safety concerns of passengers travelling along the Armadale train line?
 - (2) How many incidents have the Public Transport Authority attended at Gosnells Station from 1 October 2008 to 27 February 2009?
 - (3) How many incidents have the Public Transport Authority attended at Seaforth Station from 1 October 2008 to 27 February 2009?
 - (4) What strategies has the Minister discussed with the Public Transport Authority and the Minister for Police to decrease the number of assaults along the Armadale train line?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 27.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) The Public Transport Authority's Security Services Branch and the Police Rail Unit meet on a weekly basis to analyse and discuss specific incidents which occur across the entire public transport system. The meeting focuses on isolating areas of concern through joint intelligence gathering and then identifying and implementing strategies which include providing targeted additional personnel both from the Public Transport Authority and the Police Rail Unit to specific areas in order to minimise incidents or risks that impact on the travelling public.

The PTA has implemented the following strategies with respect to improving safety and security on the Armadale train line;

- (i) The Kelmscott station upgrade program has seen the provision of additional security measures installed at the station, such as CCTV security systems, new and improved lighting to the platform, pedestrian and car parking areas, new passenger set down areas and new customer services booths with improved lines-of-sight for monitoring activity around the station. These booths are generally staffed by customer service officers during the morning and by transit officers in the late afternoon and at night. Transit officers at the Kelmscott station were initially assigned as a mobile patrol unit, however the station is now manned by two transit officers.
- (ii) The Armadale station is manned by two transit officers and due to the complexity of the station's layout and the challenges this represented, a further two contract security officers are now deployed to patrol the station parameters and car park areas.
- (iii) Two contracted security officers are now stationed at Victoria Park station and rotate on an hourly basis to provide a security presence at the Burswood station. Oats Street station is now manned by transit officers.
- (iv) Cannington station, being one of the most incident prone stations on the Armadale line now has two transit officers, where previously the station was only manned by one officer until 1800 hours.
- (v) On the identified high risk nights of Thursday, Friday and Saturday, transit officers conduct looping patrols in both directions on the Armadale line to ensure that a visible security presence is maintained and to enable them to act early with regard to any incident. This initiative is in addition to Contract staff who ride trains to provide a security presence and to conduct ticket checks.
- (vi) The Police Rail Unit has also been allocating additional staff to the Armadale line to provide increased security coverage.