

TAXIDRIVERS — ASSISTANCE

377. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Transport:

I have a supplementary question. Given that the minister's on-demand transport reforms have allowed competition in regional areas that did not previously occur and have caused the demise of these businesses in regional towns, why are these taxi operators not eligible for fair and just compensation like the metropolitan taxi plate owners?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

The buyback related to the private ownership of plates in the metropolitan area. The legislation that governs the plates and the operation of the taxi industry in the metropolitan area is different from that in regional Western Australia. There are many businesses that operate within the taxi industry that we are not compensating, or undertaking a buyback from. It is related to the buyback of privately-owned plates.

We have had discussions over many years. In relation to the levy, the regional operators did not want the introduction of a levy. That was very clear. That was put to us. The buyback relates to privately-owned plates. We have created a new assistance package. That is because the businesses can continue.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: They are saying they can't.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough! I am telling you that you are not allowed to interject. I call you to order for the second time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: When the member for Dawesville was inviting Uber —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism! I call you to order.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: — and doing a training course for Uber drivers in the electorate, member for Scarborough —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: There was a photo of you doing that, member for Dawesville, addressing Uber drivers in Dawesville and saying how good it was. That happened before this legislation came in. What is the member's view on that—that their own colleague was inviting Uber into regional operations?

Mr J.N. Carey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Perth!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: On competition, I am not sure where the member for Scarborough was during the time of the last government, but she basically allowed it all to happen. The floodgates have opened.

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member did nothing. Now we are trying to create an environment to allow existing operators to compete in this new world.