

TOURISM — INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES — PERTH AIRPORT

3908. Mr P.A. Katsambanis to the Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

I refer to the declining state of tourism in Western Australia, and ask:

- (a) in the 2017–18 financial year how many times did the Minister meet with representatives from Perth Airport;
- (b) in the 2017–18 financial year how many times did the Minister meet with representatives from Perth Airport to discuss new international airline opportunities coming to Perth;
- (c) in the 2017–18 financial year did the Minister meet with representatives from Air India, Japan Airlines, All Nippon Airways, EVA Air or Air Canada about the prospect of flying to Perth;
- (d) is the Minister aware that in the past 12 months both Air Canada and Japan Airlines have started a direct service to Melbourne Airport;
- (e) is the Minister aware that from 11 December 2017 Air China commenced operations to Brisbane Airport; and
- (f) does the Minister have a strategy in place to attract new international airlines to Perth or does he believe this is the responsibility of Perth Airport?

**Mr P. Papalia replied:**

- (a)–(b) The Minister, the Premier and Minister Saffioti formally met with Perth Airport on 29 May 2018. In addition to this the Minister and his staff are in regular contact with the Chief Executive Officer of Perth Airport and other representatives from Perth Airport. Furthermore Team Perth meets on a regular basis, which includes representatives of Perth Airport, Tourism Australia, Tourism Western Australia and the Ministerial Office. Numerous topics relating to Tourism and intrastate, interstate and international flights have been discussed during the aforementioned meetings.
- (c) Yes the Minister has met with representatives from Air India, Japan Airlines, All Nippon Airways and a range of other international airlines. The Minister has not met with representatives from EVA Air or Air Canada.
- (d) Yes. Japan Airlines commenced a service between Narita Tokyo and Melbourne in September 2017. Air Canada launched direct flights between Vancouver and Melbourne in June 2018. It is noted that the distance between Perth and Canada makes a direct, non-stop flight technically not feasible at this time.
- (e) Yes. Air China commenced flights between Brisbane and Beijing in December 2017. Air China has since announced that the service will be suspended from 23 August 2018 until 18 January 2019.
- (f) Securing direct flights is a key part of the State Government's *Two-Year Action Plan for Tourism Western Australia – 2018 and 2019* which is publically available.