

PERTH STORMS — PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM

**31. Hon PHIL EDMAN to the Minister for Transport:**

Has the public transport system been adversely affected by yesterday's storm conditions?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for his question. The public transport system, of course, was inconvenienced yesterday, as were many systems and individuals across the Perth metropolitan area, by the freak storm activities, not the least of which were the delays caused to bus services simply by the gridlock and congestion on our road system. As of today public transport services are running well. The train lines are all open. As for bus services, the only real effects are where bus services have been diverted around the affected area of Mounts Bay Road where the closure is impacting on services. Elsewhere in the transport portfolio, Main Roads infrastructure, of course, was under a lot of stress. At the height of the storm, 192 sets of traffic lights were blacked out; the entrances to the Graham Farmer Freeway tunnel were both flooded, and access to the tunnel was limited to the emergency breakdown lane, so it gave only one lane in each way but at least it stayed open; the landslide at Mounts Bay Road near Jacob's Ladder, which I mentioned earlier, resulted in Mounts Bay Road being closed eastbound from Winthrop Avenue.

I would like to place on the record, now that I have the opportunity, my appreciation to the staff of the Public Transport Authority, who have worked hard to make sure that services are being maintained in very difficult circumstances. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Main Roads' staff who worked throughout the night, both at the Main Roads traffic operations centre and at the Fire and Emergency Services Authority operations centre. I am sure that all members would be grateful to those officers for sticking to their duty. Similarly, I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Main Roads' term network contractors that provide both road maintenance and electrical services. They also worked throughout the night. As at 10.00 am today, the 192 traffic-light intersections that had been knocked out were reduced to only 66, which shows how much work was done overnight. There have been other incidents of road damage that will still need to be assessed. The Department of Transport City West licensing centre was shut today, though we expect to have it open tomorrow. I would like to thank the staff there for persevering with getting their operations back on track in difficult circumstances.