

QANTAS — PERTH–SINGAPORE ROUTE

79. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Tourism:

I have a supplementary question. Given the minister's acknowledgement that she knew from March last year that this route looked dodgy in Qantas's eyes—it reduced the number of flights—does the minister not think that due diligence on behalf of the taxpayer would have involved determining whether it was going to be sustained in the long term?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

First of all, I reject the premise that any route being operated by Qantas would be considered dodgy. Yes, it reduced the serviceability from two flights daily to one flight daily, but I will say it again because I think it is important that people understand: the value in this arrangement is getting our brands straight in front —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, member for Warnbro. I have asked you to stop shouting out. I call you to order for the second time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will repeat this once again, in case members did not hear me the first time: the value is in getting our brands under the noses of people who are considering travelling.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park, I call you to order for the third time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: That very much forms the part of the other joint marketing arrangements we have with a range of other airlines. We have joint marketing arrangements with Singapore Airlines, Scoot and Qatar Airways. We have them with a range of other carriers and the purpose of this is to get our branding under the noses of the loyalty databases of the airline frequent flyer programs. That is the essence of it and that is where the value of the arrangement is. We will continue to work to ensure that we get value for money out of that arrangement.