

NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL ACCIDENT — MONDAY, 14 MARCH 2011

113. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the accident that occurred on the Graham Farmer Freeway yesterday.

- (1) How long did it take to clear all vehicles from the freeway following this accident?
- (2) Does Main Roads or the tunnel operator have a contract with anyone to provide tow truck services to clear the freeway following any accidents or breakdowns?
- (3) If yes to (2), does the contract have any performance standards or require tow trucks to be provided within a specified time frame; and, if yes, what are the performance standards or time frame and were they met?
- (4) If no to (2), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I am advised of the following by Main Roads.

- (1) The incident occurred in the Northbridge tunnel at 7.35 am on Monday, 14 March 2011. A tow truck arrived on site 12 minutes after the incident occurred and the vehicles involved were cleared from the scene after a further seven minutes.
- (2) Yes. Main Roads has a contract with RAC towing to provide towing services in the event of an accident or breakdown in the Northbridge tunnel or on the Graham Farmer Freeway. If RAC towing does not have a tow truck available to service an incident when required, Main Roads will obtain a tow truck from another towing contractor.
- (3) The weekday morning peak traffic period—that is, between 7.00 am and 9.30 am—has a 10-minute response. The weekday evening peak traffic period—that is, between 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm—has a 10-minute response. During other times—that is, on weekends, public holidays and outside peak traffic periods on weekdays—there is a 20-minute response time. For this particular incident, the contract response time of 10 minutes was not met. The actual response time was 12 minutes.
- (4) Not applicable.