

TAXIS — ON-DEMAND TAXIS

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

I refer to the minister's new tax on on-demand transport that will commence on April Fools' Day. Can the minister explain to the house why she chose to introduce a tax that will raise \$120 million when her own modelling shows that the cost of the tax to the Western Australian economy will be closer to \$300 million?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for that question, but I ask why she voted for it. The opposition supported the measure.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member, wait for the answer.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It was the biggest reform of the taxi industry in the state's history. It facilitates competition across a number of entrants and a number of booking services. The opposition voted for it, and many of the booking services are now saying that they will absorb the levy. That is good news for Western Australia. We believed that reform was necessary, and that is what we are doing, unlike the opposition, which did nothing about this issue and sat on its hands.

I am glad the member for Scarborough asked a question today, because she still has not been held to account for her comments in the media attacking the Premier's wife and children. The member for Scarborough has not —

The SPEAKER: Minister, can you get back to the answer please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As I said, the member for Scarborough has not been held to account for her dirty tactics, attacking the Premier's wife and children.

The SPEAKER: Minister, that is enough. Get to the point please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I will go back to the issue, and that is the biggest reform in the state's history, supported by both sides of Parliament, and we are making sure that we have a modern, competitive taxi and on-demand industry to service current and future generations.