

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — AIR TRAVEL

163. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Regional Development:

With regard to a flight taken by the Minister for Regional Development and Lands to and from Kalgoorlie on Friday, 23 March 2012 which contained the following passengers on the manifest — The Minister, Barbara King, Heather Giles, Tony Crook and Gary Brown, I ask:

- (a) were there any other people as passengers on those flights;
- (b) if yes to (a), who were they;
- (c) in what capacity was the plane used and on who's authorisation;
- (d) what was the reason for each passenger travelling on that plane to or from Kalgoorlie; and
- (e) who authorised the travel of those passengers on the flights and for what purpose was that authorisation given?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (a)–(e) The government air charter conveyed Minister Grylls and senior ministerial staff members to Kalgoorlie for the public announcement of \$5m from Royalties for Regions for the Portlink project. Ministerial staff members had policy development roles in relation to the project.

Mr Gary Brown, policy adviser to Federal Member for O'Connor, Tony Crook MP, being eligible and authorised through the Department of Premier and Cabinet, travelled on the return flight to Perth.

(Mr Crook, who did not travel on the charter, helped secure an additional \$2m in Federal funding for Portlink).