

PERTH AIRPORT — THIRD RUNWAY

**724. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Minister for Transport:**

I note recent discussions about congestion at Perth Airport and this government's view that a third runway is required. Could the minister please provide the house with an update on any new information that he has attained and whether he is aware of any alternative views?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:**

I thank the member very much for the question; I will endeavour to answer it as best I can. The member for Jandakot is right; some time ago in this house we had some discussion. I am sorry the member for Cannington is not here today because he was a pivotal part of that, with his plan to relocate Perth Airport to Pearce Air Base. I will talk about that in a second. We have previously discussed the issues around Perth Airport. There would not be a person in this house who has gone to Perth Airport and not had their travel plans impacted on by the congestion at the airport. That has a significant direct economic cost to the state and a significant indirect cost to the state. The fact is that Perth Airport has plans to build a third runway post-2029. That is too far away. It is too long for the users of that airport to wait.

**Dr A.D. Buti:** The future fund will be open by then.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I am assuming that none of the member for Armadale's constituents use the airport. He does not seem to be that interested in it, notwithstanding the fact that it is one of the most important pieces of transportation infrastructure in the state.

As I outlined last time, the rate of growth of passengers through the airport is way over and above what the airport had originally anticipated, and a third runway needs to be built. I indicated at the time that I would write to Mr Geatches, the CEO of Perth Airport, and seek some information from him. I might just read a quick bit of that letter into *Hansard*. It states —

As you would be aware, both the State and Federal Governments are committed to investing approximately \$1 billion upgrading the road network ...

Given this commitment and the importance of the Airport to the State's continued economic growth, I am seeking assurances that the planning and investment commitment ...

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** Can you table that?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I am happy to.

[See paper 5595.]

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** He goes on and asks for information about time lines, capital costs et cetera. I will be meeting on the twenty-second of this month with Mr Geatches and, I am pretty sure, with the chairman of Westralia Airports Corporation Pty Ltd.

Leader of the Opposition, I am hoping to be able to inform them, based on our previous conversation by way of interjection, that the construction of the third runway at Perth airport is an important issue that has bipartisan support in this state. I am assuming that the Labor Party in Western Australia supports bringing forward the construction of the third airport. I know he does not support —

**Mr F.M. Logan:** Third runway.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** The third runway, sorry.

Several members interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Busselton airport—now you are on good ground. I am assuming the Leader of the Opposition supports our endeavours to get Perth airport —

**Mr M. McGowan:** What are you putting into it?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I am putting \$1 billion worth of commonwealth roads around it. I do not have to put into Perth airport; it is a private enterprise. I want to know —

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** It'll take more than \$1 billion to fund it.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Hold on; let me clarify: Do you support —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr B.S. Wyatt** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Victoria Park!

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** You're the Treasurer; what are you putting into it? Put something into it, Treasurer!

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Victoria Park, I call you formally for the first and second time today. There is a process in this place, member for Victoria Park, and I know that you know what the process is.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** All I am saying is that when I meet with Mr Geatches —

**Mr P. Papalia:** Time for a joke.

**The SPEAKER:** The joke may be on you at this point, member for Warnbro. I formally call you to order for the first time today. I do not want to hear further interjections. I do not think people on my left want to hear further interjections if they want to ask questions.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** All I am saying is that the meeting on 22 November is an important meeting. I think the third runway is an important piece of infrastructure. I think members opposite would join with me in agreeing that bringing forward the third runway is an important thing for the state government to pressure the Perth airport to do. I am assuming that is the Leader of the Opposition's position.

**Mr M. McGowan:** We support additional airport and transport infrastructure in Western Australia.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Do you support bringing forward a third runway?

*Point of Order*

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** I may be wrong, but I recall that the member for Jandakot asked the question of the Treasurer. He could quite as easily have asked the question of the Leader of the Opposition, and I am sure he would have answered it. I ask you to draw the Treasurer back to answering the question put to him.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** One of the questions the member for Jandakot asked was: was I aware of any alternative views about bringing forward the third runway?

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** What's your view? You're the government.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** My view is that they should bring it forward.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** Good; go and tell them. Table the letter and sit down.

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

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I want to table one other letter—a letter from a senior opposition shadow minister, the member for Cannington, to one of his constituents. I am sorry he is not here. I will read a bit of it into *Hansard* —

I am writing to let you know that I have started to fight against the Liberal State Governments plans that will dramatically increase aircraft noise in Beckenham.

In the 'West Australian' newspaper on ... 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012, Liberal State Government Treasurer Troy Buswell announced that he wants Perth Airport to build a third runway.

True. It continues —

That runway will be pointed right at your house ...

Several members interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** That is not an inflammatory statement. I will repeat that —

That runway will be pointed right at your house ...

A third runway at Perth Airport will massively increase aircraft noise for you in your house.

This decision by the Liberal State Government has been made with absolutely no consultation with local residents or anyone else in our local community. It is another bad decision by the Liberal State Government.

I am totally opposed to this decision by the Liberal State Government. I will campaign against this decision and I want to ask for your help.

I wanted to state for the public record that the state government will be meeting with Perth Airport and we will say to Perth Airport, as we have said to the people of this state, bring forward the construction of the third runway.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** The question I think the public of Western Australia rightly will ask of the opposition and the Leader of the Opposition is: what is your view on bringing forward the third runway at Perth airport; is it that you oppose it? I think that is what it is, Leader of the Opposition.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I give anyone the call, member for Warnbro, I formally call you to order, I believe, for the second time today.

**Mr J.N. Hyde** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Perth, I formally call you to order for the first time today.