

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT — LIGHT VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

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

I refer to the government's decision to privatise vehicle inspections for light vehicles in the south west metropolitan region of Perth.

- (1) Where will owners of heavy vehicles in the South West region take their vehicle for inspection once the current O'Connor facility is closed?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that the Department of Transport advised the government that the privatisation of motor vehicle inspections would result in a loss of revenue for the department with no significant cost reductions, and that privatisation would require a revised set of fees and charges for 2011–12 to cover this revenue loss?
- (3) Will fees and charges for vehicle inspections be increased; and, if so, by how much?
- (4) When will the successful applicants be announced, and have sufficient applicants applied to meet the current workload at the O'Connor inspection centre?
- (5) Does the government intend to extend this flawed concept of privatisation to other parts of the Perth metropolitan area?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of this question.

- (1) Heavy vehicle owners in the South West region of the state can have their vehicles inspected at a number of locations in the South West. Light vehicle inspections can be undertaken at locations in Augusta, Benger, Boyanup, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Busselton–Dunsborough, Collie, Donnybrook —

Hon Ken Travers: That's close to the south west metro!

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: — Harvey, Manjimup, Margaret River, Nannup and Pemberton. Mr President, with the greatest of respect, the question reads, "Where will owners of heavy vehicles in the South West region"; that is the question I am addressing.

Hon Ken Travers: Read the preamble!

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: If the member wants to ask about something else, then I, as ever, will liaise with the Minister for Transport to helpfully provide the advice. But the member asked the question, and he is getting the answer. There is more, Mr President; I think I mentioned Harvey, Manjimup, Margaret River, Nannup and Pemberton, which are all in the South West region, as I am reasonably sure some of Hon Ken Travers' South West members know.

Hon Ken Travers: The reason you're reading this question is that it makes you look good compared with the new minister.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I thank the honourable member! I will continue.

- (2) The decision to close O'Connor was based on the owners of the site deciding not to renew the lease, as they intended to redevelop the site. The closure of the O'Connor vehicle examination centre will have minimal impact on the financial operations of the Department of Transport.

The PRESIDENT: I give the call to Hon Ljiljana Ravlich.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Mr President, I am up to (3) out of five! The Minister for Transport has gone to a lot of trouble to present this answer for me! I will continue.

- (3) Fees will be increased for 2011–12 by between 2.8 per cent and three per cent as a result of the annual review of fees and charges and based on our costs model. The closure of the O'Connor site has had no impact on fees and charges.
- (4) The successful tenderers for the inspection of light vehicles will be announced at the conclusion of the tender process.
- (5) This is the bit about the flawed concept of privatisation. The use of non-government service providers for this function has operated in Western Australia for at least the past 30 years. This means that the current system has operated under both Liberal and Labor governments, including the one that this member was part of; as such, any criticisms of the system are hypocritical. The system works well and

the Department of Transport will continue to respond to changing conditions in the operating environment and to explore ways to improve the delivery of its customer services.

That is the end of that answer.

Hon Ken Travers: When they forget to renew their leases, from the sounds of the earlier answer!

Hon Simon O'Brien: No, they decided not to renew it.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Simon O'Brien: You embarrassed yourself, Ken; you seriously embarrassed yourself.