

TAXIS — PLATES — BUYBACK SCHEME

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

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, minister.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my right!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: That is exactly the answer I wanted.

Ms S. Winton interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the first time. I was on my feet.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Can the minister confirm that jobs will be lost and on-demand transport drivers will lose revenue as a result of her levy, and outline how this policy is consistent with the Premier's "WA Labor Plan for Jobs"; and, if not, why does the regulation impact statement show that there will be between 5.9 million and 6.9 million fewer trips?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I will make that decision.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

The answer is no. Once again, the member does not understand economic analysis; that is, a number of sensitivities are run across the numbers—we will go through it more in debate later. But the member cannot pick up one part of the analysis and not look at the benefits of reform. The benefits are out there. I will go through those in a minute. I refer to the amount of booking services that are registering. Over 1 000 booking services in Western Australia are going through our process to increase competition, make sure that we look after those taxi plate owners and make sure that we have a level playing field in the future. One has to admit that this is the right reform at the right time for an industry that was battered under the previous government's watch, and it did nothing to support it!