

GREENBUSHES RAILWAY UPGRADE PROJECT

7. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When will the Greenbushes railway upgrade project commence?
- (2) Have any of the funds from the last state budget for this project been reallocated to any other projects; and, if so, which projects and how much?
- (3) Has cabinet allocated any additional funding to the Public Transport Authority to pay for the upgrade of the Avon–Albany railway; and, if so, how much?
- (4) If no to (3), where is this funding coming from?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The government will reconsider the Greenbushes railway upgrade once the situation on timber resource ownership is clearer and commitments are made by the timber industry to enter into contracts with a rail operator, or other customers present to make the rail operation a viable one. Therefore, the government will not be commencing the Greenbushes railway project in the foreseeable future.
- (2) Yes; funds have been reallocated to the grain freight network project.
- (3)–(4) I regret, Mr President, that I did not have sufficient notice myself of this question to communicate with the honourable member to clarify this part, so I ask that he do so now. The member asked, “Has cabinet allocated any additional funding to the Public Transport Authority to pay for the upgrade of the Avon–Albany railway; and, if so, how much?” What does the member mean by additional funding? Does he mean the allocation of those —

Hon Ken Travers: Of that funding and/or any other funding on top of it. Is the funding that the minister has taken from the Greenbushes project sufficient to cover the grain project or is additional funding needed on top of that?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I thank the member for his interjection and for your indulgence, Mr President.

Hon Ken Travers: I was not sure of the answer to part (2) of my question before, so I could not —

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: It is not clear. We will seek additional funding for the upgrade of the Avon–Albany railway from the commonwealth.