

GRAIN TRANSPORT — QUAIRADING TO YORK

**164. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:**

- (1) Is the minister aware that trucks were used to transport grain from Quairading through York last week?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that up to 15 trucks an hour were used?
- (3) Is the Quairading–York rail line still operational?
- (4) If yes to (3), why was it not used to transport the grain?
- (5) In light of the minister's announcement earlier this year that the government would provide a transition assistance package to keep grain on rail this season, what action will the minister take to avoid this occurring again?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of his question.

- (1) I am aware that trucks are used to transport grain from Quairading and have been for some years.
- (2) No, as the government has not arranged grain transport. This is a task that is generally undertaken by Co-operative Bulk Handling.
- (3) Yes, the rail line is still operational.
- (4) CBH uses rail freight to transport grain from Quairading to Fremantle port. However, in this case the need to load a ship within 21 days exceeded the rail freight service capacity.
- (5) Although the transition assistance package will equalise the freight cost between road and rail, from time to time small shipments by road to meet tight shipping consignments in a deregulated market may occur.