

TRANSPERTH — BUS OPERATORS

Petition

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West) [3.06 pm]: On behalf of Hon Ken Travers, I present a petition containing 32 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned Bus Operators within the Transperth Public Transport System are concerned about the lack of consideration for our ongoing wellbeing.

We note that when bus services were privatised in 1996, it caused major problems and angst amongst bus operations staff. The awarding of Transperth Service Contracts to different contractors resulted in various industrial agreements with differing pay and conditions.

The recent decision to award new Transperth Service Contracts to different contractors is again causing frustration amongst bus operations staff. We do not believe, in assessing the respective bids, that any consideration was given to the impact of these changes on employees.

Some of our concerns relate to a loss of continuity of employment, with long term drivers now having their third employer in twelve years which impacts on plans for taking long service leave. There is the possibility of a loss of our terms and conditions of employment and a reduction in our weekly take home pay. Drivers are also concerned that they may even lose their job altogether as the new contractors are only required to employ 90% of the current employees.

We feel aggrieved that very little consideration was given to our lives being thrown into turmoil.

We ask the Legislative Council to consider whether our lives should be put on hold, financially, emotionally and professionally for the next six months while we wait for decisions on employment.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council investigate the process for awarding Government contracts of this nature. Specifically how our situation can be addressed to ensure that operators are consulted before our collective lives and those of our families are cast aside.

We further ask that you investigate whether any money will actually be saved under these new contracts.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 3677.]