

BUSSELTON MARGARET RIVER AIRPORT — TERMINAL EXPANSION

**239. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I have a supplementary question. Given the Minister for Tourism already spruiked the terrifically successful new route in last year's estimates hearings and the potential new route to Sydney, why is the government dragging its feet on the terminal expansion; why not just do it?

**Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:**

I do not think we are dragging our feet at all. We have been working continuously with the City of Busselton. The previous minister undertook work in consultation with the City of Busselton to provide additional terminal facilities for departures, injector belts, modifications to the baggage belt, airline facilities, ground servicing equipment and hardstands and additional car parking to the tune of over \$1 million.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse!

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** The member may not like the answer —

**The SPEAKER:** One moment, please, minister.

Member for Vasse, you asked a supplementary question and you are getting the answer; I suggest you listen to it.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** The member for Vasse may not like the answer, but we work with the City of Busselton to make sure that the airport progresses in an orderly fashion. We do not simply drop in buckets of money in the hope that something will happen in the future. This is a considered approach. It was the previous minister Hon Alannah MacTiernan who negotiated with Jetstar to get those airline routes in. She has done an incredible job to make sure that that airport is sustainable and that flights are happening beyond the simple FIFO flights. It is a very good project; it is continually under review in terms of its needs and it will expand in an orderly way.