

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING 2011 — TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

**713. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Transport:**

Could the minister please advise the house on what arrangements this Liberal–National government has put in place to assist those members of our communities who wish to travel into the city to participate and enjoy the wide variety of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting events?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:**

That is a very, very good question from the member for Morley. Notwithstanding the efforts of the opposition to talk down our public transport system and to hang around the rail stations trying to scare patrons off our public transport system —

Several members interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I have seen the photos of Hon Ken Travers out at Stirling with the member for Balcatta. It was spooky!

We have a good public transport system with 1 154 buses. Do members know that that fleet happens to be growing at 15 per cent over the next few years? On top of that, we have a \$430 million fleet replacement program. We have 234 railcars; that will grow by 20 per cent over the next few years. This capacity, along with the efforts of the employees of the Public Transport Authority and others, such as the security contractors, will be brought to bear to ensure that Western Australians have every opportunity to enjoy the benefits afforded to them when they come into the city over the principal CHOGM days of Friday and Saturday next week. It is a great series of initiatives.

Normal train services will continue as usual. The three main stations in the city of Esplanade, Perth Underground and Perth will all remain open. Buses will continue to run right across the CHOGM period, although there will be some impact on bus services because of closures to Wellington Street and the City Busport. The Public Transport Authority's website and the production of some 5 000 or 6 000 brochures will ensure that users are fully aware of those potential changes. Those changes are only minor in the broader scheme of things.

Importantly, on Friday and Saturday of next week there will be free public transport in Western Australia. That will apply to trains, buses and—if the member for South Perth was here, he would be pleased to hear—ferries. There will be no charges for our Park 'n' Ride facilities on our rail network on the public holidays, bearing in mind, that there are now some 4 000 additional Park 'n' Ride places so that people can park and enjoy rail transport into the city. I think the PTA has done a fantastic job in making sure that it will have every available service online to assist people, especially those coming into the city on the Saturday to the barbecue. As the Premier said, over 100 000 are expected and it will involve a major transportation effort.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** I hope that they get there before you do or they will not get any sausages at all!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I am sure the member for Cockburn will bolt them down! Yesterday, I visited the Main Roads—I did not realise that came out like that!—traffic operation centre over in Northbridge. It is fantastic. I got to see the work that Main Roads, WA Police and some of our contractors are doing to manage the road network during the CHOGM period. They have a number of challenges. They have to move every head of state in a motorcade-style procession from the airport into the city. Yesterday, I saw them bring a motorcade into the middle of the city in 14 minutes in normal Perth traffic by manipulating the traffic lights. Normal road users would not have noticed. I got to meet Inspector Royal, I think his name is. I have heard him on the radio talking to Ethel Chop on 94.5 FM. He was in charge on the day. The one thing that I think is fantastic is the dedication and commitment of the staff who were working there yesterday. They were very proud to participate, as public servants of Western Australia, in the CHOGM effort. Their efforts and dedication should be applauded, because it is the efforts and dedication of thousands of people like that, including public servants and volunteers, that will make CHOGM very successful for not only the residents of the Western Australia, but also all who live here and who will have an opportunity to enjoy our period in the international spotlight.