

AUSTRALIND ROUTE STATIONS — DISABLED ACCESS FACILITIES

838. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to an article in this week's *Harvey-Waroona Reporter* titled "Call to help disabled access train stations" in which Hon Col Holt said he has raised concerns with the minister about three stations along the *Australind* route that do not have disabled access facilities.

- (1) Will the government provide disabled access at these stations?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), when will the platform modifications be made?
- (4) How much will those modifications cost?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

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

- (1) Funding is being requested from the Department of Regional Development through the royalties for regions program in the 2015–16 budget process for the upgrading of Yarloop station on the south west main line.
- (2) The patronage at North Dandalup and Cookernup stations does not support the level of investment required to upgrade the stations at this stage. Nevertheless, to assist members of the public who are elderly or disabled and use the *Australind* service, the railcars are equipped with stairwell steps and handrails to facilitate easy access for all passengers when boarding and disembarking. In addition, the *Australind* service has on-board staff available to provide assistance when required.
- (3) If approval for funding is granted through the budget process, it is expected that the modification works at Yarloop station will commence in 2015–16.
- (4) It is anticipated that the modifications for a high-level platform at Yarloop station will cost approximately \$500 000; however, a tender process will provide a more accurate assessment of cost.