

RED BULL AIR RACE — COMMERCIAL FERRY RESTRICTION

2878. Mr A.P. O'Gorman to the Minister for Tourism

- (1) Is the Minister aware that in the two days prior to the Red Bull Air Race there were restrictions placed on the movements of commercial ferries operating between Barrack Square and both the Narrows Bridge and the Causeway creating delays of up to three quarters of an hour, while the Government-owned TransPerth Zoo ferry was allowed to operate, without restrictions, between Barrack Square and Mends Street which was far closer to the air race course and was directly under the Red Bull flight path?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the damage done to tourism in Western Australia when tourists are delayed for up to three quarters of an hour while observing the government ferry operating during this time?
- (3) Is this situation a result of a lack of Government support for tourism in Western Australia; and
  - (a) if not, what action will the Minister take to ensure that, in future, private commercial ferry operators carrying tourists are not treated differently to the Government-owned TransPerth ferry?

Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:

- (1) Yes, I am aware there were restrictions placed on the movements of all vessels, commercial and Government-owned, operating in the Swan River due to the Red Bull Air Race from Thursday, 15 April to Sunday, 18 April 2010. These closures were to enable Department of Transport's Marine Safety Business Unit command and the Water Police to ensure the safety of all vessels in this area at this time.
- (2) It is unfortunate that a commercial vessel carrying tourists was delayed during this period. Reports to the Department of Transport, indicate that the greatest delay was approximately 25 minutes in duration. The delays were to ensure the safety of all concerned, and occurred while clearance was requested from the Red Bull Air Race tower.
- (3)
  - (a) No. At this stage, there is no intention to change the current on -water event management procedures. Restrictions were placed on the operation of both commercial and Transperth ferries during the Red Bull Air Race. These restrictions varied according to the nature of the operation of the commercial and Transperth ferries. Transperth ferries conduct a dedicated cross river run with little or no chance of them impeding the air race zones. Transperth ferries were permitted to travel on their normal cross river route along the dedicated channel between Barrack Street and Mends Street wharf complexes until midday Saturday ,17 April 2010. Other commercial vessels were permitted to navigate across this channel with permission and under the control of the Department of Transport's Marine Safety Business Unit. This channel was, at times, under the flight path but so were many sections of Perth Waters including the private and commercial vessel holding / viewing areas.