

REMOTE COMMUNITY AIRSTRIPS - MAINTENANCE FUNDING

1268. Hon SHELLEY ARCHER to the minister representing the Minister for Housing and Works:

- (1) Can the minister confirm that until 2007-08 funding was provided by the Department of Housing and Works for maintenance upgrades to some remote indigenous community airstrips?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that a decision has been made to discontinue funding for remote community airstrips effective immediately?
- (3) Is the minister aware that many remote community airstrips are the only access in and out of these communities during the wet season?
- (4) Is the minister aware that the Royal Flying Doctor Service will be prevented from carrying out not only routine visits but also emergency evacuations if these airstrips are not maintained on an ongoing basis?
- (5) Where can these communities access funding to maintain the airstrips now that funding has been denied by the Department of Housing and Works?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(5) It is intended that the current arrangements through the Department of Housing and Works will continue. Funding for airstrips is also available through the commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services' remote aerodrome safety program and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure's regional airports development scheme.