

TAXIS — CARD PAYMENT SURCHARGE

326. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Transport:

Does the minister intend to follow New South Wales and Victoria in capping the surcharge on taxi card payments?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

I thank the member for Morley for the question. The Western Australian government is closely following the implementation of these changes in other jurisdictions. The 10 per cent surcharge for electronic payments has occurred for some time. It falls outside of the taxi fare schedules that the Department of Transport sets. After obtaining information from the Victorian regulator, the government approved the drafting of regulations on 30 January 2014. In their current form, the draft regulations will cap non-cash service fees at five per cent. The government intends to consider implementing the cap after assessing the implementation in New South Wales, after consultation with the Department of Commerce about regulating unregulated credit card providers and after the draft regulations have been finalised. For the benefit of everyone here, the Taxi Council of Western Australia has indicated that the industry may respond to these changes in other states with a self-imposed surcharge cap.