

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, INSTRUCTIONS TO EMPLOYEES TO
UNDERTAKE ONLY ESSENTIAL TRAVEL

1119. Mr Graham to the Premier

- (1) On what date did the Government issue instructions that State Government employees should undertake only essential travel?
- (2) Who issued the statement?
- (3) How will the effectiveness of the instructions be monitored?
- (4) How will the effectiveness of the instructions be reported publicly?
- (5) When will a report of the effectiveness of the instructions be reported publicly?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) New guidelines for official travel by Ministers and Government officers were issued on 7 August 2001. The guidelines require Ministers and their agencies to exercise the strictest economy when using public money for domestic or overseas travel to ensure that it is the most cost effective and efficient method of performing the required function or obtaining the required information.
- (2) The guidelines were issued as a Premier's Circular.
- (3)-(5) The Government made a commitment to reduce costs within the public sector to achieve specific savings in travel, along with advertising and consultancy expenditure. Effective from 1 March 2001, agencies were required to reduce expenditure in the area of interstate and overseas travel by 20% and adjustments were made to agency budgets to reflect the reduction. Savings in travel are being redirected to other government priorities in line with Labor election commitments. The Report of Interstate and Overseas Travel undertaken by Ministers, Members of Parliament and Officers on Official Business will continue to be tabled in Parliament.