

AUSTRALIND — SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

1196. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to this week's *Australind* train service cancellations.

- (1) When was the train withdrawn from service and why?
- (2) Why was the train service not returned to service on Tuesday evening, as originally advised?
- (3) How many booked *Australind* passengers were notified by TransWA of the cancellation?
- (4) How many passengers have used road coaches each day since the cancellation started?
- (5) When will the service be restored?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The *Australind* train was undergoing a scheduled service and a major component replacement from 8.30 am Tuesday, 14 October 2014 to 5.00 pm Wednesday, 15 October 2014. It was planned for the train to be reintroduced on the evening of Wednesday, 15 October 2014, but as a result of faults identified relating to air-conditioning, transmission and electrical earthing that could not be remedied, the train service was cancelled and passengers were transferred to two road coach services to undertake their journey.

- (3)–(4) The first unplanned cancelled service was on the evening of Wednesday, 15 October 2014. A total 42 passengers travelled on the rail replacement road coaches that evening. TransWA either spoke to or left messages for seven passengers who were expected to board the train en route to Bunbury. All other passengers were advised when they arrived to board the train in Perth. On Thursday, 16 October 2014, TransWA operated the first three services of the day with road coaches. Fifty-six passengers on the first service were not advised until boarding in Bunbury or en route to Perth as a result of the failure of the train late in the evening of the previous day. Passengers on the next two services were advised where possible. The last service was operated by train; however, it broke down at Cannington as a result of mechanical failure and passengers were then transferred to road coaches.

On Friday, 17 October 2014, 253 of the 304 passengers booked to travel were advised prior to travel. Since Wednesday, 15 October 2014, TransWA has attempted to make contact or has made contact with every passenger, where possible, and where a passenger has provided a contact phone number. The number of passengers who have used road coaches since Wednesday, 15 October 2014 is 1 772—including the two afternoon–evening services expected to leave today—and a further 314 are booked to travel on the *Australind* from Thursday, 23 October 2014 to the afternoon of Friday, 24 October 2014.

- (5) Friday, 24 October 2014; the evening service from Perth to Bunbury.