

**INTRASTATE AIR SERVICES**

*Statement by Member for Ningaloo*

**MR SWEETMAN** (Ningaloo) [12.51 pm]: It is a pity that no ministers are in the House at the moment. I refer to a media statement by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure on 29 April about an announced review of intrastate air services. This is hot on the heels of a brief meeting that I had with the minister about three months ago about licensing Skippers Aviation Pty Ltd to enable it to operate a regular passenger transport service in regional Western Australia, particularly areas in my electorate. Many tourist operators in Kalbarri, Shark Bay, Exmouth and Carnarvon are battling to connect people with the product that they have on offer, whether it be an eco-tour, a wilderness lodge or a three or four-star resort. They are finding it very difficult to get people into their region through the holiday wholesalers. That situation will continue until the Government gets real about air services in this State and looks at licensing carriers that have the capacity to meet the needs of not only corporate travellers but also tourists who want to get from the east coast or international destinations into some of the prime, unique and world-significant areas in my electorate. I implore the Government to make all haste in ensuring that the consultants come in with a report as early as possible and then make a decision about whether to licence other carriers to fly into destinations in my region, even if those carriers are in competition with existing carriers.