## Extract from Hansard

[COUNCIL — Wednesday, 19 June 2013] p1724b-1724b

Hon James Chown; Hon Sue Ellery; President; Hon Helen Morton

## METROPOLITAN RAIL NETWORK — DISRUPTION — PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY REPORT

Question without Notice 139 — Supplementary Information

**HON JIM CHOWN (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary)** [5.12 pm]: Supplementary to the response provided to question without 139 asked by Hon Ken Travers on Tuesday, 11 June 2013, I would like to table a copy of the final report "Dewirement of overhead line: Between Warwick and Stirling stations at 12.313 km point". I also draw to the member's attention that this report is available on the Public Transport Authority's website.

[See paper 351.]

## Point of Order

Hon SUE ELLERY: Earlier in question time, I raised a point of order about an answer given by the Minister for Mental Health representing the Treasurer in answer to question C241 asked by Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson. The answer referred the member to information that was publicly available, and the Leader of the House gave an assurance on that matter. I have been advised by my colleague Hon Alanna Clohesy that in answer to her question C240, asked of the Minister for Mental Health representing the Treasurer, the minister advised that she did not have an answer at the time, but that if it came in, she would give it to the member. It has been handed to the member, but the minister did not read out the answer. That is one issue. The second issue is that the answer is the same as the answer to the other question that I raised the point of order about, which is that the information is publicly available. I just put that on the record. I do not know where this answer stands, because the minister did not actually give it.

Hon Peter Collier: It's different.

**Hon SUE ELLERY**: Yes, I know it is. There is question 240 and question 241. The answer to both of them refers the respective members to information that is publicly available. I am asking that the same undertaking that the Leader of the House gave for question 241 apply to question 240.

It raises another question in my mind that the answer was handed to the member, but the minister did not read out the answer. I wonder what status the answer has in any event.

**The PRESIDENT**: It does not. It becomes only a piece of correspondence between the minister and the member. I think this issue came up yesterday. If a question is asked on the record, an answer should be provided on the record. I refer the point of order to the minister.

**Hon HELEN MORTON**: I did not have an answer to the first question that was asked. Subsequently, two answers came in. I wrote "unacceptable" on one of them; I am not sure which of the two questions I wrote it on. I did not have a chance to look at either of those questions. I provided one answer, which, I agree, was unacceptable. The other answer was not meant to be provided because it was never acceptable in my view.