

AIR SERVICES — CARNARVON AIRPORT

**684. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the answer provided in the Legislative Council yesterday regarding the exclusive rights to operate air services on selected regulated regional Western Australian routes. Can the minister confirm that her department has verified the runway at Carnarvon Airport is of a suitable standard to meet the required specifications for the Dash 8-Q400 aircraft on regular services?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

As I understand it, negotiations are currently occurring between the Department of Transport and the airline on the aircraft that are able to fly in that area. Of course, we are supporting regional air flights in Western Australia, including through the regional air cap. That means we are capping the cost of air travel throughout regional Western Australia. I know the member is opposed to this particular airline. I understand that, but when it is the only one that put up its hand to fly the route, the alternative was that no airline would fly that route. We are not going to let these places have no airlines flying in and out. This is a challenging area. The Department of Transport is working with the relevant company to make sure we have the capacity for a variety of aircraft to land.