

TRAIN STATIONS — PAID PARKING — MOTORCYCLES

708. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister for Transport aware —
- (a) that in 2009 one of his predecessors, Hon Simon O'Brien, abolished the \$91 a year Perth parking tax on motorcycle bays in the city; and
 - (b) in abolishing the tax, Hon Simon O'Brien said he did so "... in recognition of the role that motorcycles play in reducing traffic congestion" and further said, "Motorcycles do not add to traffic congestion and use very little space when parking"?

Did Hon Simon O'Brien say something? I think his colleagues now call him the finest Liberal minister in a decade. I will continue —

- (2) Can the Minister for Transport explain why his government now wants to charge motorcycles or scooters \$2 a day, or \$520 a year, to park at train stations?
- (3) Will not this new policy simply discourage people from riding motorcycles to train stations and therefore add to congestion?
- (4) Given that motorcycles take up significantly less space than a car, why are they being charged the same rate as a car?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

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

- (1) (a)–(b) Yes. It should be noted that motorcyclists are still required to pay for parking in most parts of the city, although at a reduced rate. That payment for motorcycle parking has always been a requirement in the paid areas of Transperth car parks, but there has been a difficulty in enforcing this requirement due to the need to display a paper ticket. The new SmartParker solution overcomes this issue.
- (2) On a typical weekday, there are approximately 120 000 individual rail passengers on the Transperth system, which reflects the 240 000 to 250 000 daily total rail boardings. The vast majority of people who currently use the rail network arrive at stations by bus, as Kiss 'n' Ride car passengers or by walking or cycling. Although there has been a substantial investment in parking facilities, with 20 000 car bays located throughout the network, it is clearly not sustainable to provide a parking bay for every train user; indeed, it would be impossible. In a sense, those people who get to use the Park 'n' Ride facilities are getting a higher level of service because the wider community and the taxpayer are providing the land, car park facility and security arrangements. It is only reasonable, therefore, that some modest cost should be paid to use these facilities. In this sense, motorcyclists are no different from other users.
- (3) No. Motorcycle riders choose to use this mode of transport for a variety of reasons, and assuming cost is one factor, this will still represent the cheapest mode of transport—notwithstanding the new modest parking fee.
- (4) See answer to (2), noting, for example, that the fee applying to motorcycle users at Perth Airport is no different from the fee charged for cars.