

FREMANTLE TRAIN — SUSPECTED FIRE

1266. Hon AMBER-JADE SANDERSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to comments made by the Public Transport Authority spokesman on Tuesday, 28 October regarding a fire in the rear of a Fremantle-bound train.

- (1) On what basis did the PTA spokesperson claim there was no fire?
- (2) Is the minister aware that two different witnesses both confirmed they saw flames?
- (3) What investigation has occurred?
- (4) Will the minister table the findings of any investigations?
- (5) If not, why not?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

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

- (1) There was no evidence of flame damage on the underframe of the railcar. Furthermore, when reviewing the CCTV footage no flames could be seen. It should be noted that the materials used in the manufacture of brake equipment are designed to operate at high temperatures.
- (2) Although the Public Transport Authority is aware that a fire was reported, there is no evidence that flames were produced only that the brake equipment was glowing and causing smoke. When firefighters doused the brakes, this action created a large cloud of steam.
- (3)–(4) In conjunction with its maintenance provider, the Public Transport Authority is investigating the cause of this incident. A summarised version of the results can be made available to the Parliament when the investigation is complete.
- (5) Not applicable.