

QATAR AIRWAYS — FLIGHTS

980. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the recent decision of the federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to refuse an application by Qatar Airways for extra flights into Australia.

- (1) How many of the flights proposed by Qatar Airways had been likely to enter Australia via Western Australia?
- (2) Could any of those proposed flights have involved direct flights from India?
- (3) Has the minister made representations to Catherine King, MP, calling on her to overturn her decision?
- (4) Did the minister raise the matter, which has been described by others as a “protection racket for Qantas”, with the Prime Minister on his recent visit to Western Australia?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) Additional flights to Perth were not part of Qatar Airways’ formal application. The state government strongly supports the expansion of air services into Western Australia and will continue to work with airlines and the federal government to achieve this.