

TAXIS — LONDON CAB TRIAL

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

I refer to the proposed trial of London cabs in Perth.

- (1) Are the London cabs capable of carrying wheelchairs?
- (2) Will the cabs be approved to carry wheelchairs in Perth?
- (3) If yes to (2), will drivers be paid a lifting fee for passengers in wheelchairs; and, if not, why not?
- (4) If no to (2), why not?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. It should be noted that the wheelchair-carrying features of the TX4 differ significantly from those of multipurpose taxis in that the wheelchair is loaded via ramp rather than by a lift. It is critical that correct training and guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of wheelchair passengers and the drivers loading them. The Department of Transport, in consultation with industry and stakeholder groups, will determine the appropriate types of wheelchairs that can be carried safely and the circumstances in which they can be carried.
- (3) No.
- (4) The TX4 does not meet the accessibility and restraint standards for a multipurpose taxi. Although it is envisaged that the TX4 will provide more travel options for wheelchair passengers, it may not be a suitable substitute for all multipurpose taxis. In the event that the trial indicates a high demand from passengers travelling in a wheelchair, the policy on lifting fees will be reviewed.