

TRANSWA — ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS FUNDING

1926. Hon Adele Farina to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

Why is TransWA applying for Royalties for Regions funding to replace 22 road coaches as opposed to funding the cost from the department's budget?

Hon Jim Chown replied:

The application of Royalty for Regions funding for coach procurement aligns with a number of the Royalties for Regions objectives including:

Improving services to regional communities — an effective public transport service to and from the regions increases access to metropolitan services (e.g. health, specialist, higher education) for regional residents. Access to reliable transport facilities, fitted with the required amenities for long journeys, ensures that people can continue to live in regional locations whilst still being able to access services provided in the metro area and/or other regional hubs.

Building capacity in regional communities — local communities depend on services such as affordable and convenient public transport.

Expanding opportunity — new road coaches will enable the movement of skills, labour and knowledge between the regional centres and the metropolitan area.

Growing prosperity — increasing the opportunity for people to travel between regional towns and the metropolitan area provides more options for employment, tourism and leisure.

Transwa services are considered to be a vital regional community service, with many customers particularly the elderly, unemployed and students having either no or limited alternative transport options. The regional communities involved depend heavily on the road coaches for inter-town commuting, boarding school student travel, medical and related travel to and from Perth, tourism and senior citizen travel.