

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY — SCHOOL BUSES — BUSSELTON–DUNSBOROUGH

2981. Hon Adele Farina to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the passenger capacity for buses being used to transport school children between Busselton and Dunsborough?
- (2) How are passenger numbers on these buses monitored?
- (3) What is the seating capacity on those buses?
- (4) What is the Public Transport Authority's (PTA) policy in relation to bus drivers dropping school children off at bus stops en route, due to overcrowding, to wait for another bus?
- (5) In relation to (4), what is the PTA's duty of care to school children in this situation and what does the PTA do to ensure the child's safety while waiting for another bus?

Hon Jim Chown replied:

- (1) Licensed capacity of 150.
- (2) Passenger numbers are monitored through SmartRider data and manual checks are conducted by contractor staff.
- (3) 99.
- (4)–(5) Bus drivers are not permitted to overload buses and therefore the situation should never arise where a driver is required to remove passengers en route. However, it should be noted that drivers are required to report to the depot if they are unable to pick up all passengers so that another bus can be despatched.