

REX AIRLINES — INTRASTATE AIR ROUTES

**526. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Transport:**

I have a supplementary question. In the interest of transparency, will the minister commit to tabling the performance of all airlines operating regulated routes against their KPIs every quarter?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I will seek advice about regulated routes versus unregulated routes because I think the member should compare all of them.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** The Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics publishes everything.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Yes, it would do. I am actually disappointed in people wanting to attack an airline that, honestly, was the easiest to deal with during COVID. It kept going. I remember during COVID, when every other airline said that they would not fly in WA, one airline stood by WA and kept going. I will say that.

As for communications, it was the one that took our phone calls and kept flights into key areas. I think Rex's management has acknowledged some of the community concerns, in particular about communication, and I understand it has issued a statement acknowledging the respect the WA government has given to Rex and that its duty is, of course, to continue performing.

I will not execute airlines and drop services because then, next week, the member would be coming in saying, "Why hasn't Carnarvon got a service?" That is what the member would be saying. In public policy, we are always making judgements. There is never a perfect answer, but there is the best answer, and we have to judge all the competing issues. That is why I am confident about this decision. I do not want to leave areas like Carnarvon without a service. If the member's policy is to say that this airline should not operate in WA and that Carnarvon should not have a service, that is his policy. I do not think it is a policy that the Nationals WA would want to execute in Carnarvon, but if the member is saying that he wants to send the only airline willing to fly to Carnarvon back over east, that is his policy, not ours.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Madam Speaker, I have a very brief question, if I may have another question.

**The SPEAKER:** That was a supplementary. Sorry, I am not going to allow further questions. I have said that. I note that normally we do not have an MPI on a Wednesday. It is often on a Tuesday. You are entitled to have it today, but in order to move onto private member's business by four o'clock, I really need to bring the MPI on now. That is the rationale for it.