

LATE-NIGHT TRAINS — FREE SERVICES

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

- (1) Can the Minister for Transport confirm that only late-night trains travelling from Perth on Saturday and Sunday after 1.00 am are free?
- (2) If no to (1), will the minister table the notice issued to staff that makes it clear that trains travelling to Perth after 1.00 am are free?
- (3) Does the minister accept that having different rules depending on which direction a train is travelling on Saturday and Sunday mornings will cause confusion for patrons?
- (4) Will the minister now take charge of the situation and insist that all trains travelling after 1.00 am are free?
- (5) Once the 1.15 am and 2.15 am train services end in April, will the last train at 12.15 am become free?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

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

- (1) As of 21 February 2015, services in both directions are free from 12.29 am to 3.00 am. This information is clearly stated on the Transperth website. This means that all outbound late-night trains—that is, those generally referred to as 1.15 am and 2.15 am—are free. All inbound services early on Saturday and Sunday mornings, after 12.29 am, are also free as per the website advice.
- (2) See part (1).
- (3)–(4) Not applicable.
- (5) The numbers on the 1.15 am and 2.15 am services are under ongoing review to see whether patronage improves. The Public Transport Authority has advised that these services are costly and have low patronage and therefore have a high subsidy per passenger. We will therefore continue to assess patronage and if it increases in a sustainable way in that period, we will review the position on ceasing these services. The minister continues to encourage people to vote with their feet to support the service.