

TAXI INDUSTRY BOARD, FUNCTIONS

86.Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the minister explain how he has managed to abolish the Taxi Industry Board without changing the Taxi Act 1994, which mandates the establishment of such a board?
- (2) What legal advice did the minister obtain on the matter?
- (3) Will the minister confirm that he has pledged \$150 000 to the Taxi Industry Council, which he has dictated will now provide the functions previously provided by the Taxi Industry Board?
- (4) What is the source of these funds and have they already been paid?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1)-(4) I think the election of the Taxi Industry Council will follow the annual general meeting in the near future. That matter is being dealt with. We will maintain a Taxi Industry Board, and we will look at repealing that section of the Act.

Hon Tom Stephens: Sorry, you will maintain the board?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE: Yes. We will put in place a board to operate but not to function, so to speak.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: To operate but not to function?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE: In a sense, it will be in place but will not be functioning. I understand that the Government intended to put some funds into the council, and it is due to receive some of those funds almost immediately. I have spoken to one of the members of the taxi industry who will be involved in that, and that is being put in place.