

TRANSPORT — TIER 3 RAIL LINES — BUSINESS CASES

859. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Transport:

I refer the Minister to the answer provided for Question on Notice 619, and ask:

- (a) Of the lines listed in answer 619 (a), which ones are officially closed and are not kept on care and maintenance;
- (b) Of the lines listed in answer 619 (a), which are not being used but are still on care and maintenance;
- (c) Can the Minister provide the dates and relevant communication from the rail lease holder showing when the government was notified of the decision to cease using each of those lines; and
- (d) Can the Minister provide official documents showing the government's agreement with the rail lease holder for those lines to be closed, and if not, why not?

Ms R. Saffioti replied:

- (a)–(b) All rail lines listed are officially closed and kept on care and maintenance. However, significant work would be required to return any of these lines to service.
- (c) The Strategic Grain Network Committee Report was first published in December 2009.

On 9 July 2010, the Barnett Liberal–National Government and Brookfield Rail agreed to cease operations on Tier 3 lines, after which these lines were progressively closed with no further investment towards rail line upgrades.

Those parties agreed that the Tier 3 lines would then be placed under care and maintenance, which occurred on the 30 June 2014.
- (d) I table a media statement of 28 July 2011 from the former Liberal–National Government, where then-Transport Minister Troy Buswell stated “there isn’t a compelling case for the retention of the Tier 3 lines.” [See tabled paper no 2413.]