

KALGOORLIE WESTRAIL LOCOMOTIVE OPERATORS, EMPLOYMENT DOCUMENTS

151. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) I refer to the fact that some Westrail locomotive operators in Kalgoorlie were served with offer documents for employment with the new holding company from 30 August 2000 as late as yesterday, and told they must respond by 8 September - tomorrow.
- (2) Can the minister also explain why some locomotive operators have been offered positions only as driver's assistants?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Details of the staff transfer package including the mechanism for transfer and the components of the transfer payment have been with employees for some months now. In addition, employees of Westrail Freight have been provided with detailed written information in the form of information booklets, sale update newsletters and question and answer sheets. Employees have also been able to ask questions and receive information through a telephone advice line and email facility. Subsidisation of financial advice is also provided. Employment offer packages were initially distributed statewide in mid-August as a formalisation of the employment transfer process. Given this, employees have not had two days in which to make such an important decision and the time lines have not been extended.

I am aware of some instances in which employees may be sick or in unfortunate circumstances and there would be some consideration in that area.
- (2) No locomotive operator has been offered a position as driver's assistant.