

AIRPORT RAIL LINK — OPERATING COSTS

1209. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When the Government committed to build the airport rail link, what advice did it receive about the likely costs of operating the service, including debt servicing, once it was built?
- (2) Has the Government received any advice, formal or informal, about the likely cost of operating the airport rail link?
- (3) If yes to (2), what is the advice?
- (4) If no to (2), how could the Government describe its commitment as fully funded and costed?
- (5) If no advice at all was received, is it usual practice for the Government to decide to build projects without any idea of the cost of operating the project?

Hon Jim Chown replied:

- (1) The operating cost of the Forrestfield Airport Link (FAL) project will depend on the procurement model, the ultimate design of the link and the operating plan of the rail services.
- (2) See above.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The operating subsidy required for the FAL project will be considered as part of the normal Budget process.
- (5) A final decision about the project will be made by Government when the Project Definition Plan is presented in the second half of 2014.