

NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL, LEVEL OF SERVICE

2480. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

- (1) What is the current Level of Service (LOS) for the Northbridge Tunnel west bound lanes during -
  - (a) morning peak hour; and
  - (b) afternoon peak hour?
- (2) What is the current LOS for the Northbridge Tunnel east bound lanes during -
  - (a) morning peak hour; and
  - (b) afternoon peak hour?
- (3) What is the predicted LOS in 2010 for the Northbridge Tunnel west bound lanes during -
  - (a) morning peak hour; and
  - (b) afternoon peak hour?
- (4) What is the predicted LOS in 2010 for the Northbridge Tunnel east bound lanes during -
  - (a) morning peak hour; and
  - (b) afternoon peak hour?
- (5) Are there plans to increase traffic capacity of the Northbridge Tunnel?
- (6) If yes to (5), what is planned and when will this happen?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

- (1)-(2) The current Level of Service (LOS) in the Northbridge tunnel in both directions for both morning and afternoon peaks is LOS E. Level of Service (LOS) E is described as "Traffic volumes are at or close to capacity. There is little freedom to select speed or to manoeuvre within the traffic stream. Longer peak periods, of one hour or more, start to appear. Minor disturbances may cause flow breakdown".
- (3)
  - (a) The predicted Level of Service (LOS) in 2010 in the Northbridge tunnel westbound in the morning peak, based on the current two lane configuration, is at the upper limit of LOS E and entering LOS F for short periods.  
  
LOS F is described as "Traffic volumes are very heavy and exceed capacity. Breakdown in traffic flow occurs with long queues and delays".
  - (b) The predicted Level of Service (LOS) in 2010 in the Northbridge tunnel westbound in the afternoon peak, based on the current two lane configuration, is LOS E.
- (4)
  - (a) The predicted Level of Service (LOS) in 2010 in the Northbridge tunnel eastbound in the morning peak, based on the current two lane configuration, is at the upper limit of LOS E and approaching LOS F for short periods.
  - (b) The predicted Level of Service (LOS) in 2010 in the Northbridge tunnel eastbound in the afternoon peak, based on the current two lane configuration, is LOS E.
- (5)-(6) The tunnel was planned for and constructed to accommodate three traffic lanes in each direction. It was always envisaged that the three-lane configuration would be implemented sometime after 2010 in conjunction with programmed asphalt resurfacing works on approach roads to the tunnel.