

AIR SERVICES — CARNARVON AIRPORT

**685. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Transport:**

I have a supplementary question. If the runway is not up to standard, will the state government cover the cost of an upgrade required for the airstrip?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

We spend millions on runway upgrades each year—millions—and we continue to spend millions. We continue to support air travel in Western Australia. We are the government that has grown the amount of air travel in this state like no-one has ever seen before. There were 151 000 airfares sold at the capped level. We have more flights and more people travelling by air in Western Australia than ever before because we have supported regional air travel. We will do what we can to support further enhancements to air travel across the state. We are very much open to that. Honestly, this is an area that National Party members with their hats and bumper stickers never invested in. They did more with signs and bumper stickers than with helping people in regional Western Australia. When we won government, the biggest issue for many parts of regional Western Australia was the cost of air travel. We dealt with that issue with the new community airfare and capping airfares, saving regional residents thousands and thousands of dollars each year. Under the member's course, no-one would be flying into Carnarvon because she would have rejected the only airline that bid for that route.