

TAXIS — DISPATCH SERVICES

1401. Hon ADELE FARINA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to taxi dispatch services.

- (1) Are there any regulations or other requirements that establish the conditions under which a taxi dispatch service can impose a dispatch lock on a taxidriver?
- (2) If yes to (1), are those conditions the same for country and metropolitan taxidrivers?
- (3) If no to (1), why have such regulations not been developed to protect the rights of drivers who operate in the unique position of not being employees who can seek recourse under the Fair Work Act and who are not signatories to contracts that allow them recourse through the civil courts if they believe that their rights are being infringed?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No. The arrangements under which a taxidriver affiliates with a taxi dispatch service are a matter for the parties.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Legislation under which taxi services are regulated contemplates that taxidrivers will predominantly be owner-drivers or agents who would negotiate favourable terms with other parties such as taxi dispatch services.