

ROAD SAFETY — SOUTH WEST REGION

**14. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:**

WA's south west region has experienced more deaths in the past five years than any other region in Western Australia or any other region in Australia, for that matter. According to the Road Safety Commission, there were 93 deaths on regional WA roads last year. As at the end of April, there have been 39 deaths on south west roads this year.

- (1) Why is the government spending hundreds of millions of dollars on unnecessary smart freeways to improve commute times for Perth residents, while literally dozens of people are dying every year due to unsafe road conditions in the regional areas?
- (2) Does this government have any plans to improve regional rail networks in order to alleviate congestion and traffic on roads throughout the south west?
- (3) What specifically is the government doing to improve the safety of roads in the south west?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) The state government is delivering the biggest ever investment in regional road infrastructure. Currently, nearly \$4.5 billion is allocated towards regional roads projects over the next four years. The McGowan government developed and successfully negotiated a regional road safety program with the commonwealth government. This unprecedented program of works will see lifesaving treatments rolled out across more than 7 000 kilometres of regional roads, including nearly 500 kilometres of roads in the south west region.
- (2) Yes. The McGowan government committed \$22 million at the state election towards key agricultural freight rail projects and today was successful in negotiating an additional \$160 million towards agricultural supply chain improvements. This investment will move more regional freight onto rail, improving road safety and efficiency.
- (3) Refer to (1) and (2).

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Hon Rick Mazza has the call.