

PERTH–BUNBURY HIGHWAY — BILLBOARDS

832. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are the new billboards on the Perth – Bunbury Highway located on government-owned land; and, if yes, which agency owns the land?
- (2) Are any other billboards proposed to be located along the highway, and where are they to be located?
- (3) What involvement did Main Roads have with these billboards?
- (4) Can the minister provide details of any public consultation that has been undertaken regarding these billboards?
- (5) Are there any proposals for similar billboards to be located on other major roads in WA?
- (6) Does Main Roads support having billboards on highways and freeways?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No, the billboards are not on government-owned land.
- (2) Yes, south of Herron Point Road. Approval for a further three signs has been applied for and is currently being considered.
- (3) The applications were assessed by Main Roads Western Australia.
- (4) Insofar as Main Roads is concerned, no public consultation was undertaken as the signs are on private property. Approval for the signs was obtained from the relevant local governments.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Currently, Main Roads is reviewing the regulations and guidelines pertaining to roadside advertising, and this review is expected to be completed by mid-2011.

I indicate to the member that approval for advertising signs and the like is primarily the responsibility and province of the relevant local government rather than Main Roads, which is more concerned about adverse impacts on road users, particularly from a safety perspective.

Hon Ken Travers: But if the billboards are close, they can have an adverse impact even if they are on private land.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Indeed, and that is why Main Roads reserves some powers to intervene if such an object might have to be removed, but it is for only a limited range of purposes. General approvals, public consultations and other matters of policy are more properly in the province of the relevant local government.