

STATE BUDGET 2016–17 — ROAD TRAUMA TRUST ACCOUNT

333. Mr R.F. JOHNSON to the Minister for Road Safety:

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Hillarys.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: This is my first question in nearly eight years. The question is to the Minister for Road Safety. In the minister's statements regarding the road trauma trust account allocations, she said that there would be \$30 million for the safer roads and bridges program and \$22.5 million for blackspot funding, which is \$52.5 million in total. The minister also stated that \$20 million would be spent on improving metropolitan intersections. In the post-budget briefing session that I have just attended —

Several members interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Disgraceful.

The SPEAKER: Member for Forrestfield and member for Joondalup, I call you both to order for the first time. I remind you that if you want to talk, you sit in your seat. I am calling you to order anyway, so I suggest you do not talk. I want you to start again, member for Hillarys.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: In the Minister for Road Safety's statements regarding the road trauma trust account allocations, she said that there would be \$30 million for the safer roads and bridges program and \$22.5 million for blackspot funding. The minister also stated that \$20 million would be spent on improving metropolitan intersections. In total, that is \$72.5 million. In the post-budget briefing session that I and other members just attended, the Under Treasurer confirmed that the safer roads and bridges program and blackspot funding has in the past been a Main Roads budget expenditure and that there is only \$10 million in the budget papers for improving metropolitan intersections. First, is this a clear case of cost shifting? Second, where the hell is the other \$10 million? Who is telling the truth, minister—you or the Under Treasurer?

Point of Order

Dr K.D. HAMES: I have just come from that briefing and that is not what the Under Treasurer said.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Hillarys for highlighting the fact that we have a record \$146 million spend from the road trauma trust account this year going towards road safety initiatives. I am extremely proud of the fact that we have managed, in this very tight budget environment, to get a record spend on road safety initiatives of \$146 million a year—the biggest spend ever in the history of this state. I dispute that the member for Hillarys has interpreted the information he received at the budget briefing accurately.

Mr R.F. Johnson: You weren't there.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I dispute that he has achieved that. There is \$20 million going to metropolitan intersections. Some of the work will be completed by Main Roads Western Australia through the black spot funding and some will be completed through the safer roads and bridges program. In addition, \$65 million will go out to regional areas for the run-off-road program and there will be record amounts going to education campaigns and media campaigns, ensuring that we are covering a broad spectrum of areas in road safety. So that we know we are educating the community about making better choices on the road, we are looking at —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the second time. A quick answer through the Chair, minister.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, you must decide now. I am listening to you. I do not want to hear any more noise. I want a quick answer through the Chair.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: As most members in this house would know, the Road Safety Council, previously the Office of Road Safety, does not complete any of these works itself. The money for road improvements, intersection improvements, the run-off-road program, audible edge lining and sealing shoulders is all done through Main Roads. Of course money is going to flow from the road trauma trust account into Main Roads,

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 19 May 2016]

p3386a-3386a

Mr Rob Johnson; Dr Kim Hames; Speaker; Mrs Liza Harvey

because Main Roads completes the work or lets out the contracts; it is the one that is operationally involved in improving the roads. The road trauma trust account funds it in the interests of road safety.