

GRAIN RAIL NETWORK — TIER 3 LINE WITHDRAWALS

982. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the funding recently allocated for road upgrades relating to the tier 3 line withdrawals.

- (1) How much of this funding is allocated for this financial year and for each year of the forward estimates?
- (2) What is the estimated annual maintenance cost for upgraded roads and how much additional funding is allocated for maintenance in each financial year?
- (3) Has the government undertaken any further assessment of the comparative costs of rail and road options related to tier 3 lines since the December 2009 strategic grain network report; and, if yes, will the minister table the assessment?
- (4) Will the minister table the business case on which the allocation of funding for the grain rail network was made; and, if not, why not?
- (5) Did the government make any assessment of how many additional fatalities and crashes will occur if the grain currently carried on rail is transferred to road; and, if yes, will the minister table it and, if not, why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I have just signed off on that question, and I thank the member for some notice; but, as he will be aware, I have been at the committee table all afternoon. I shall be providing the answer when it comes in and I will seek leave to have that incorporated into *Hansard*. I will also table the business case that the member has asked for at the end of question time.