

HARVEST MASS MANAGEMENT SCHEME — ROAD SAFETY IMPACT

3724. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport
- (1) What studies have been undertaken to measure the impact of the Harvest Mass Management Scheme on —
 - (a) road safety; and
 - (b) road conditions?
 - (2) What is the estimated cost of any impacts of this Scheme?
 - (3) Have any Local Government Authorities raised any concern about this Scheme?
 - (4) What monitoring is done to ensure this Scheme does not have an adverse impact on the condition of roads and road safety?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The Liberal–National Government has undertaken this scheme to support farmers and the agricultural sector which was neglected by the previous Labor Government.

Main Roads WA advises:

- (1)–(4) The Harvest Mass Management Scheme (HMMS) is not a concessional loading scheme that allows a blanket increase in axle loads on local roads. The HMMS has just completed its second trial.

The HMMS represents a risk management approach to providing flexibility in the movement of grain at harvest from paddock to receival facility, without compromising safety or the structural integrity of the road and bridge network. An underlying objective of the scheme is to eliminate gross overloading and reduce road damage.

The HMMS was designed to encourage farmers and cartage contractors to adopt loading practices that target compliance with regulatory mass limits, while providing a "buffer" above a vehicle's gross mass to assist them to manage the natural variation experienced in the density of grain between growing areas and in different grain varieties when loaded from paddock.

To this time, CBH has been the only grain receiver with the systems available to participate in the HMMS. CBH actively manages the axle masses of heavy vehicles delivering grain, which includes suspending non-conforming vehicles, and maintains data on the operation of the scheme to enable Main Roads to conduct a review at the end of the season. Main Roads also monitors compliance with the requirements of the scheme through on-road inspections and random audits on CBH during the harvest period.