

SCHOOLS — ELECTRONIC SPEED ZONE SIGNS

318. Ms E. EVANGEL to the Minister for Road Safety:

Can the minister advise how the government's commitment to install electronic speed zone signs in every 40-kilometre-an-hour school zone is progressing?

Ms M.M. Quirk: Troy Buswell's already announced this.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I am very pleased to take this question from the member for Perth. I also thank her for her advocacy for her electorate and for her interest in road safety matters. This pre-budget announcement was to —

Ms M.M. Quirk: It was pre-budget three years ago.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member for Girrawheen makes some interesting interjections, and I will come to those later. We were heavily criticised by the opposition for not having in the budget the entire amount of the funding for the LED school sign program. We were also criticised by opposition members who said that this was not a road safety initiative and it should not be funded from the road trauma trust account. Apparently, putting 40-kilometre-an-hour flashing signs around school zones to warn motorists to slow down around schoolchildren is not a good road safety initiative.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the second time. Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time. Minister, I want the short answer and through the Chair.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I was really thrilled the other day to announce in the member for Perth's electorate outside one of her primary schools in Highgate that the \$20 million of additional funding for the LED program to fulfil the government's 2013 election commitment is in the budget, and we have allocated a further \$12 million in the next budget cycle to fulfil our commitment to roll out these signs in every school zone in Western Australia. That means that 1 075 state and private primary and high schools will have these 40-kilometre-an-hour flashing signs to alert motorists to the vulnerability of those road users and also to give motorists a heads-up as to when the school zones are in operation. If people do not have children, they do not necessarily understand when the school zones are in operation. This is a road safety measure. We as a government want people to slow down in those school zones. We are giving motorists who do not have children and do not know when school is in session an odds-on chance to comply with those rules.

The other accusation from members opposite was that we were rolling out these signs only in safe Liberal seats and in marginal seats. Nothing could be further from the truth. We have rolled them out in Armadale and in Balga. We have them in Port Kennedy and in Warnbro. I am quite pleased that the opposition has now declared those marginal seats, because it is on and we will be taking up the challenge in 2017.