

NEWMAN – MARBLE BAR ROAD — MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES

320. Hon JON FORD to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the road connecting Newman, via Nullagine, to Marble Bar, servicing the towns and mines in the central Pilbara.

- (1) What is the estimated cost of the necessary maintenance and upgrades to ensure that this road is safe, given the increase in the amount of traffic that travels on it?
- (2) What funds have been allocated by the state government to the maintenance and upgrade of this road to make it safe for traffic?
- (3) When will the state government ensure that this road is sealed?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The road audit undertaken in May 2009 based on a risk model developed by the Australian Road Research Board concludes that there are no sections of the road considered particularly hazardous. As such, it is considered by Main Roads that if drivers drive to the conditions of this road, it is safe.
- (2) The state government has allocated \$360 000 towards maintenance grading for the financial year 2010–11.
- (3) This road, like many others across our vast state, will be considered for further funding in future budgets.