

ROAD TRAUMA TRUST ACCOUNT — EXPENDITURE

360. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Road Safety:

Can the Minister for Road Safety please update the house on the unprecedented level of expenditure from the road trauma trust account in the 2014–15 budget?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Morley for this question and his continued interest in road safety and law and order matters. Before giving my response, I acknowledge on behalf of the Deputy Premier the children and principal from Dawesville Catholic Primary School who are here with us today; and on behalf of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, the Subiaco Primary School's year 6 class members who are here as well.

I am very pleased, as Minister for Road Safety, to inform the house that that the 2014–15 overall budget allocation from the road trauma trust account for road safety initiatives will be \$100 million. This is an unprecedented amount being spent on road safety in Western Australia and this will go to a number of different areas as part of our Toward Zero strategy. We will be spending over \$55 million on road improvements; \$20 million of that will go towards addressing metropolitan intersection crashes, which is where we know a lot of our fatal and serious injury crashes occur. We will be spending over \$35 million in improving regional roads. These are stretches of road out in regional areas that resemble graveyards; we cannot go for more than 100 metres on some stretches of road without seeing a white cross. We are putting \$35 million towards road improvements in regional areas to address some of the worst stretches of our country roads to improve our road safety performance in regional areas.

The government will also spend over \$14 million on police, which will enable officers to spend additional hours in traffic enforcement and infringement processing, allowing the fines to go through the system into the fund so that money can go towards more expenditure in this road safety space. Some \$1.5 million will go towards assisting with the implementation of the alcohol ignition interlock trial—another achievement of this government that I am very, very proud of.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We all know that alcohol interlocks were first proposed in 2003 by the then Labor government as being a very good idea. I am really pleased that, in 2014, I am the minister who has actually managed to bring that legislation to the Parliament and will be implementing that scheme with \$1.5 million from the road trauma trust account. Many members in the house will be aware of our 40-kilometre-an-hour school zone flashing sign program. It has been very well received by the local community. It is a great road safety initiative, protecting our most vulnerable road users—children and pedestrians

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We get the interjections from those opposite, but let us compare it with the member for Girrawheen's Labor government record. Let us compare it with what her government did. In 2007–08, what did her government spend on road safety initiatives? It spent \$17.5 million! I would stop interjecting if I was her. In 2004–05 —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Some \$14 million!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Under seven years of Labor, \$112 million was spent. We have not been in government for seven years, yet we have spent three times as much—namely, \$358 million towards initiatives to improve road safety outcomes in this state. I am proud of it. We should all be proud it, and that is because on this side of the house we said —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the third time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: That is because the Liberal–National government had the courage to make the decision to put 100 per cent of red light and speed camera infringement proceeds into a fund to spend on road safety improvements. That is what we did; that is where the spend is coming from, and we should all be proud of it.