

ROAD TRAUMA TRUST ACCOUNT — BUDGET ALLOCATION

**292. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Road Safety:**

Can the minister advise the house how the record \$146 million allocation from the road trauma trust account for 2016–17 will be spent to help keep the community safe on WA roads?

**Mr M.P. Murray** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY** replied:

I thank the member for Vasse for this very important question on road safety.

**Mr M.P. Murray** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I am very pleased to announce that this year we have a record spend from the road trauma trust account towards road safety initiatives in Western Australia.

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

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

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** There is \$146 million; that is 25 per cent more than the 2015–16 budget allocation, which was a record in its own right and 800 per cent higher than the last allocation under the Labor administration in 2008–09—800 per cent more. In its last year in government, Labor allocated \$24.3 million for road safety initiatives.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The fatality rate, since we came to government —

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The fatality rate per 100 000 since we came to government has decreased by 34 per cent; that is a 34 per cent reduction since 2008. It was rising under the watch of some of those opposite. I thank the member for Vasse for this question.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Where will this money be spent? There will be \$5.5 million spent on roadside drug and alcohol testing and \$37 million will go to addressing inappropriate and excessive speed crashes. That will be spent on things like a \$7 million program for the expansion of speed cameras—an achievement I am very proud of. It is very difficult sometimes to get an expansion to the speed camera fleet, but with the concurrence of my colleagues in cabinet, we are expanding that fleet because we know that speed cameras drive down the speed of motorists and result in fewer crashes, and certainly fewer fatal and serious injury crashes. There will be \$7 million to go towards replacing the existing speed camera fleet and \$12 million will go into our electronic school zone signage. That is a very important initiative. Every school in the state will have a flashing 40-kilometre-per-hour speed zone sign to make sure that motorists drive safely in the vicinity of our kids.

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Mr Speaker, \$20 million will be spent on addressing metropolitan intersection crashes. People navigating their way around the metropolitan area know that right-angle crashes are a problem in metropolitan Perth, and some of that money will be spent on various initiatives. Some of it will go into changing traffic signals and some of it will go into dedicated turning lanes. We may implement roundabouts at certain problematic intersections—we tend to have lower crash rates at roundabouts as opposed to those at red-light cameras—and there will be some cyclist and pedestrian improvements at some of those problem intersections where there have been crashes. One thing I am very pleased with is a \$65 million program to address run-off road crashes in regional areas. Some of that money has been allocated as a result of the wheatbelt highway safety review as follows: \$2.8 million on Toodyay Road; \$5 million on Great Eastern Highway and Great Southern Highway, which were specifically targeted as part of the wheatbelt highway safety review; and \$6.13 million to

put in dedicated overtaking lanes on Albany Highway. Audible edge lining will be installed on some sections of road, and we will seal the shoulders.

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We will put flexible roadside barriers on areas where there are run-off road crashes, and there will be overtaking lanes. All these initiatives are to try to prevent run-off road crashes —

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany, I call you to order for the second time. Minister, wind it up, please.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** These initiatives are to try to prevent run-off road crashes and prevent people from impacting with objects. We know that if we put these initiatives in place, we can drive down the number of crashes by 40 per cent. I am really proud of this government's achievement in road safety. In a very difficult budget environment, we have a record spend from the road trauma trust account. To hear the criticism of those people opposite when we are the ones who funded the Collie Coalfields highway improvement —

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We are funding the overtaking lanes on Albany Highway. We know where the road safety improvements need to be made and we are spending record amounts to achieve them.