

ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL — EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATIONS

**113. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

I have a supplementary question. How did the minister know better than the Road Safety Council when cabinet cut nearly \$10 million out of speeding and drug-driving strategies this financial year and the minister will not even have a report until midyear?

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

All I can point to is the outstanding record of this government in this space so far. Five years ago, when the previous government was on watch, just over 800 000 roadside random breath tests were performed and the result was that about 20 000 people tested positive for an excess blood alcohol reading of more than 0.05. What we are getting now as a result of the compliance efforts of this government and the effort that we have put —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** I asked you why you cut \$10 million out. Are you going to tell us why you cut \$10 million out and why you know better than the Road Safety Council?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland, I call you to order for the third time. Minister, please just answer the question.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Just to finish, I was trying to provide a comparison. In the last financial year, we conducted 1.6 million roadside breath tests and the result was a significant reduction; about 14 000 people tested positive at roadside. We are making a difference in this space. We have doubled the number of random breath tests at roadside and we have seen a significant reduction in the number of people testing positive. There is still a long way to go and we accept that, but this government is committed. The alcohol interlock system has been talked about in this state for 10 years. The legislation will be coming to this Parliament very shortly and I look forward to the support of the opposition when I bring it into this space.