

ROAD TRAUMA TRUST ACCOUNT — EXPENDITURE

**97. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Road Safety:**

I refer to the 44 people who have already tragically died on our roads this year compared with 31 at the same time last year, and note that 32 of these fatalities were on country roads.

- (1) Of the \$150 million allocated to the road trauma trust fund this financial year, how much has already been spent and how much has the minister been advised will remain unspent by 30 June this year?
- (2) If the amount is significant, why is it sitting there?

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

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question.

- (1)–(2) We allocated \$110 million from the road trauma trust account for expenditure this year on road safety initiatives. That was split between metropolitan intersection upgrades, regional run off road crashes—the program for regional run off road sits at about \$46.5 million—a range of other initiatives around public education campaigns and general road improvements. As to the amount unallocated, the fund obviously moves depending on the activity generated by speeding motorists. As people speed and the infringement money goes into the fund, the fund grows and we allocate it on an annual basis for expenditure at midyear review. My understanding is that at present the unallocated amount sits at around \$40 million. However, we are currently in a budget process —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** The midyear review says it is \$140 million.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I have spoken about the amount unallocated. The member for Midland might be getting confused that there can be money in the fund that has not been spent, but it can already be allocated to projects.

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

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

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** As projects come online and the agencies that are responsible for those projects request progress payments, the amount allocated then gets spent. Although we might allocate \$110 million, the \$110 million will get spent over the course of the year, and the amount of money that has not as yet been transferred to the agencies as progress payment will sit in the fund.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** As the member for Collie–Preston well knows, it is this Liberal–National government that put money into the Collie Coalfields highway.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston, I call you to order for the second time. I want the answers through the Chair. Member for Collie–Preston, moderate please.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Expenditure from the road trauma trust account has allowed us to upgrade the Collie Coalfields highway—a highway which was nothing short of a death trap for many, many years and the Labor opposition did nothing about it. We took action from the road trauma trust account and I think it is appalling that the member for Collie–Preston interjects like that on this question!

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

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

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston, you have been called for three times now, and now you are on three and a half. Minister, I want a short answer through the Chair.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I am finished.