

HARVEST MASS MANAGEMENT SCHEME

2866. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Transport

- (1) What studies have been undertaken to measure the impact of the Harvest Mass Management Scheme on —
 - (a) road safety; and
 - (b) road conditions?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the impact?
- (3) Is the Government considering an expansion of the Harvest Mass Management Scheme?
- (4) What other commodities (products) are being considered?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)-(4) As the current scheme has only been in place for one season, the final results have not been ascertained. At this time no specific studies have been done in regard to the impact the scheme may have on road safety, however it should be noted that during the 2009?10 season, there was no indication of any increase in reported accidents.

The scheme has gone a long way towards eliminating gross overloading and therefore road damage would be minimal. At this stage the Government has not committed to extending the season beyond February in each year. No other commodities are being considered for inclusion.