

ROAD TRAUMA TRUST ACCOUNT — AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

**772. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Road Safety:**

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister assure the house that he will be doing the best he can to ensure the Road Safety Council and Road Safety Commission establish clear priorities, as outlined in the report?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Just pause a moment, Leader of the Opposition. This is a supplementary question. You should not be interjecting on the question. It is for us to hear the question; it is for everyone to hear the question. They can adjudicate on the good sense or otherwise of the question, and the good sense or otherwise of the answer. Having running commentary on the quality of the questions is not helpful.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Will the minister be able to assure the house that he will be ensuring that the council and commission establish clear priorities for the use of the funds, especially in the light of the \$169-million increase that is expected.

**Mr D.R. MICHAEL replied:**

Thank you for the supplementary question. The Road Safety Council and the government already have the Driving Change strategy, which sets down the strategies and priorities of government. If we look at the way the money is spent at the moment—I accept the Auditor General's findings regarding proper assessment processes and problems with the evaluations of projects. They should not just roll on and on without an assessment. If the member has a look at what some of the money was spent on, I ask him whether there is something in there that he thinks it should not be spent on. One of the largest funds goes to Main Roads for the regional road safety fund, for the audible edge lines and putting shoulders on Main Roads' roads in the regions. Early figures show that regional road deaths—albeit still too high—are the lowest in a very long time. I bet that some of that is to do with this program, which is something that I am very proud that this government has done in conjunction with the federal government. We accept the recommendations of the Auditor General; there will be better governance of the funding. I have all confidence and will make sure that the funding from the road trauma trust account will continue to go to the priorities in the Driving Change strategy and towards saving lives on Western Australian roads.