

ROAD TRAUMA TRUST ACCOUNT — AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

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

I refer to the Auditor General's determination that the Road Safety Council and Road Safety Commission are not effectively administering the road trauma trust account, and that last year an unacceptable 175 Western Australians lost their lives on our roads.

- (1) Given that Western Australia's road toll has not seen significant improvement in a decade, what specific reforms will the minister make to the road trust trauma account to ensure that strategic projects are identified and evaluated to ensure the effective use of this well over \$100 million fund?
- (2) Noting that the RTTA is expected to increase in value by up to \$69 million annually when new camera systems come online, will the minister ensure that this funding will be used to reduce deaths on WA roads?

Mr D.R. MICHAEL replied:

- (1)–(2) Yes; I am obviously aware of the Auditor General's report that came out yesterday regarding the performance audit of the office of the Road Safety Commission and the Road Safety Council. I acknowledge the findings of the report. The member will note that there are three recommendations. A couple of the recommendations refer to governments and one refers to a procedural matter that was covered already in a finance audit of the Western Australia Police Force that was released a few weeks ago. That recommendation is to ensure that the Road Safety Commission gets approval from the minister before any money is spent from the road trauma trust account. I can say that all money spent from the road trauma trust account has already been government approved on projects to improve road safety, and that goes through a vigorous budget process every year. I have written to the Road Safety Commission to ensure that it complies with that as soon as it is able to in the forthcoming budget processes.

In terms of those other recommendations that the Auditor General made, the Road Safety Commission already has a body of work underway. We also have our Road Safety Council, and the chair has been in the job I think a little over a year. The former member for Carine Katie Hodson-Thomas is there doing a great job elevating the Road Safety Council and making sure that the people on the council are of a high level in government and that some of those community organisations are already represented on it. The reforms that the Road Safety Commission and the Road Safety Council have already been looking at—it is mentioned in the response to the report—include a new evaluation framework to ensure that when the Road Safety Commission recommends up to the Road Safety Council funding out of the road trauma trust account, it is properly evaluated and there is a standard assessment process; a new governance charter to deal with any issues of conflict of interest, given who is legislated to be on the Road Safety Council; and also a new administration framework. These are the things that I am committed to. We accept the recommendations in full. There are some implementation time frames in there. I am expecting that the Road Safety Commission and the Road Safety Council will hopefully exceed them and have them completed within the next few months.