

GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY, SWAN VALLEY — UPGRADE

2504. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Transport

I refer to the most recent upgrade of the Great Northern Highway, through the Swan Valley, and ask —

- (1) Has the road been raised as a result of this work?
- (2) If yes to (1), what has the increase in height been?
- (3) Has the Department measured the traffic noise affecting residents prior to, and after the road works?
- (4) Will measures for noise abatement on this section of road be undertaken?
- (5) If yes to (4) —
 - (a) what form will those measures take; and
 - (b) when will they be implemented?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The reconstructed highway has been raised, but only in some areas; in other areas it has been lowered.
- (2) The increase in height has ranged from 0m to 1.325m. The increase has been necessary to ensure water flows along the highway and into the newly formed piped drainage system. It was also raised to avoid the high water table in some areas from adversely impacting on the life of the pavement, and in the vicinity of Susannah Brook, to remove the substantial dip in the road.
- (3) A Noise Impact Assessment, which included noise measurements and modelling, was undertaken by consultants Lloyd Acoustics in March 2008. The noise was modelled for both 2011 and 2031, comparing the results of building the highway upgrade and comparing these results to those that would have resulted if the highway was not upgraded. The noise level was modelled at each individual residence, between the southern end of the works just north of Lennard Street and West Swan Road.
- (4) Yes. The Noise Impact Assessment results have allowed Main Roads to determine a suitable noise management package to be offered to the adversely affected owners of residential properties. There are eight adversely affected residences, which were modelled to have a minor increase of between 0.6 dB and 1.2 dB in noise. The affected residences are at 677, 679, 693, 793, 835, 837, 867 and 893 Great Northern Highway. The remaining residences were modelled to have a minor reduction in noise levels, given the smoother running asphalt surface that has been used for the upgrade.
- (5)
 - (a) The measures have involved improvements to residential buildings in the form of ceiling insulation (if none was present), evaporative air conditioning (to maintain air flow), thickened glass windows (to reduce noise penetration), and solid core doors (to reduce noise penetration).
 - (b) The measures have recently been completed, in a manner generally agreed with the individual owners. However, Mr B M Stanich (Keystone Asset Pty Ltd), who owns land at 837 Great Northern Highway has declined the package for his tenanted house on that parcel of land.