

LEVEL CROSSINGS — REGIONS

658. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Transport:

I have a supplementary question. Can I just confirm that as a result of the funding that was confirmed in last night's budget, there will be no additional state government funding to match those funds to roll out this program across regional WA?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

No, the Leader of the Opposition cannot confirm that at all. Let me make a point about last night's budget. Some of the funding in last night's budget was announced in May but the previous federal coalition never appropriated any of the funding. One of our key projects as part of this budget round was that even though the previous federal government made some announcements, only this federal Labor government appropriated the funds. Many of us were unaware that of all the announcements made by the previous federal Liberal coalition government, none of it was appropriated. That is why it was important to secure this funding as part of last night's budget, and I am happy to have secured that funding. We will work with the federal government. As I said, we will go through all the information from the federal budget. We are doing that now and we will continue to make investment decisions. This state Labor government is investing a record amount in regional road spending, in regional road safety and in regional level crossing safety.