

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL MEETING —  
WHEATBELT SECONDARY FREIGHT ROUTE

**893. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Transport:**

I have a supplementary question. I am glad the minister met with the group this morning and I look forward to an update about her meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister.

Will the support just offered by the minister be accompanied with a funding commitment from the state government to assist in leveraging federal funding?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for that question. Of course, one of things that is always raised when I go to these transport ministers' meetings is how WA does so well working with local governments. WA is the only place across Australia where the local government gets a share of the hypothecated revenue for motor vehicle licensing fees. We have just negotiated and finalised a new five-year agreement with local governments for roads across Western Australia. That agreement will see more money go to local governments than has previously been the case.

**Mr D.C. Nalder** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bateman!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** There will be more funds going through that local government grant than there were under the previous government —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** — which I understood once slashed it by about 30 per cent, so the numbers were quite staggering.

**Mr D.C. Nalder** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bateman, I call you to order for the third time.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** We have those local government agreements. There is also other funding, of course, that the state is entering into in relation to programs across the state. One of the things we were also looking at is that, as Main Roads has such a significant regional presence, how we can provide more technical support to the working group representing the 42 councils and shires—how we can support them with our knowledge on the ground? We are looking at all the different mechanisms. Frankly, I think that, given the Deputy Prime Minister came over, met with a group and understands the priorities, I am looking forward to him putting a lot of money on the table for WA.