

LEVEL CROSSINGS — REGIONS

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

I refer to the recently announced federal budget and the announcement of \$180 million to establish the regional Australia level crossing safety program to improve safety at level crossings across the country. Will the minister give families who have campaigned for 20 long years confirmation today that her government will use this state budget to invest and partner to maximise the commonwealth government's commitment to improve passive rail crossings in regional Western Australia?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question.

Of course, rail crossing safety is very important to this government. I have spoken directly to the Deputy Prime Minister about this issue on a number of occasions in the lead-up to the federal and state budgets. We welcome the announcement made by the federal government in its budget and we will be making our announcements in relation to all federal budget initiatives in our state budget when it is released in May. I will not say exactly what our response will be, only to say that we are very, very supportive of safety at rail crossings. We are already investing \$5 million through Main Roads into that project. We partner with Arc Infrastructure and will continue to work to improve safety at rail crossings. But, as I said, all those details will be disclosed in the state budget or close to the time of the state budget.