

LEVEL CROSSINGS — MAIN ROADS REVIEW

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

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister please expand on why the statement that I made was incorrect in relation to part (3): why has the government failed to provide funding to release Western Australia's share of the commonwealth's \$180 million?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

Let us go to this key point. We have been leading the nation in relation to our movement to improve the safety of rail crossings throughout the state, whether it be in the wheatbelt, the north west or the metropolitan area. As I said, our record is second to none, and I will continue to advocate to improve safety. Those funds from the commonwealth are yet to be distributed. Of course, we are keen to work with the commonwealth to help with the distribution of funds, but as I said in relation to the review, we undertook the review, we have recommendations and will be making announcements very, very soon.

Those level crossings existed when the member was in government and she was member for Central Wheatbelt. What did she do as a local member? If she was concerned about safety, and those issues have been there for many, many years, as the local member and member of a cabinet that was spending \$8 billion in royalties for regions, why did she not undertake any program of improvements?

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: She has no explanation on why she did nothing as the member for the area, as the member for Central Wheatbelt. She was there for eight years as a member of cabinet, and is now pretending that she cares when she did not care and had the ability to allocate funds. That was the test and she failed it. We will be delivering.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.