

BUSSELL HIGHWAY, UPGRADE

**115. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

- (1) Will the minister advise what it will cost Main Roads Western Australia to promote with displays and promotional material the Bussell Highway upgrade between Vasse and Margaret River?
- (2) How many copies of the four-page colour brochure entitled "Bussell Highway Upgrade Vasse to Margaret River" have been printed, and at what cost?
- (3) Can the minister provide a total cost for the Bussell Highway upgrade between Vasse and Margaret River and confirm definite dates for when work will start and be completed?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I provide the following response on behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

- (1)-(2) The material referred to by the member is not promotional material. It forms part of an investigation and planning process conducted by the Department of Main Roads into ways to improve the safety and efficiency, for the benefit of all road users, of the section of Bussell Highway between Vasse and Margaret River. The material and displays were an important component in keeping the local community and landowners informed and in facilitating local input to assist in identifying areas of concern on the highway. The total cost of the community consultation was \$10 000, of which \$1 000 was for the production of 1 000 brochures. As part of the investigation, Main Roads has recently provided the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure with a causality study, which identifies the cause of reported crashes on this section of highway and makes various recommendations for improvements.

The minister is considering this report, and an announcement on high priority works is expected within the next few weeks.

- (3) At this stage of the design process, the estimated total cost of the upgrade strategy is \$17 million and includes widening, the provision of overtaking lanes and the reconstruction of various sections. The preliminary design is expected to be completed by June 2003 and will provide a guide for the future allocation of priorities as part of future budgetary considerations. In the meantime, safety improvements for the current financial year are being investigated, such as the installation of audible edge lines to the value of \$200 000 under the black spot program.