

LEVEL CROSSINGS — REGIONS

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

I refer to the regional Australia level crossing safety program introduced by the former Liberal–National coalition government in its March budget, reconfirmed in yesterday’s Labor federal budget.

- (1) With federal funding secured, will the state government provide its share of funding to ensure this program delivers improved safety for regional Western Australians?
- (2) When can Western Australians expect to see the upgrades to the passive level crossings needed in their regions?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I think I went through these figures last week and showed that we pretty much increased the amount we are providing for level crossing safety in regional WA by about 100 per cent from about five years ago. We have basically doubled the amount we are putting into level crossing safety, we are upgrading passive crossings to active crossings and we are improving pedestrian safety. The member for Murray–Wellington may remember that we were out in Harvey and went to the site where we are going to improve the pedestrian crossing near the town centre. We are continuing to roll out this program across the state.

Just on the *Australind*, there are 11 separate projects that are funded, with \$3 million, on top of the other projects that we are delivering in conjunction with Main Roads across regional WA. We will continue to invest more and we have invested more. I take this issue very seriously. I take regional road safety very seriously, as I take road safety seriously. Again, we are investing more than we ever have and we will continue to work with all tiers of government to improve level crossing safety across WA.