

ALBANY HIGHWAY NORTH OF CRANBROOK, WIDENING

1195. Hon. M.G. House to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

When will the roadworks to widen Albany Highway north of Cranbrook be undertaken?

Ms MacTIERNAN replied:

Some 69 kms of Albany Highway from Cranbrook to the northern boundary of the Kojonup Shire has been identified as requiring widening to improve safety and provide for a uniform level of service. The estimated cost of this is \$40M.

It is planned to progressively undertake this work over a number of years as funding permits.

An amount of \$0.3M in the current budget, together with an allocation of \$2M in next year's budget was intended to enable the commencement of this widening work. However it is now intended to divert this funding to enable the continuation of the higher priority passing lane programme along Albany Highway, by bringing forward the construction of two passing lanes north of Kojonup. These passing lanes, together with a passing lane to be constructed north of Mount Barker this year, and a further two passing lanes south of Mount Barker proposed for next year, will bring the total number of passing lanes on Albany Highway within the Great Southern Region to twelve. A further passing lane immediately north of Mount Barker will also be provided at the time of construction of the Mount Barker Northern Bypass.

The Government recognises that the widening works north of Cranbrook are a priority and will examine ways of providing funding as part of future Budget considerations.