

OLD COAST ROAD, IMPROVEMENTS TO EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION

425. Hon MURIEL PATTERSON to the Minister for Transport:

Will the minister provide details to the House of measures to ease traffic congestion on the Old Coast Road, south of Mandurah, and outline how safety will be improved as a result?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

I am pleased to advise that construction of the Dawesville deviation commenced recently. When completed, this section of dual carriageway, which is approximately four and a half kilometres long, will help ease congestion and improve traffic flow through Dawesville. The realigned road will help reduce conflict with existing traffic, and the dual carriageway will enhance the free flow of traffic. The new road is scheduled to be open to traffic by Easter 2001. When this section is completed, the dual carriageway on the Perth to Bunbury road will extend south to Tims Thicket Road. In addition, the extension of the Old Coast Road dual carriageway at Lake Clifton is nearing completion. This project extends the existing dual carriageway a further six kilometres to the north. This project also includes the provision of two new overtaking lanes on the section of two-lane road north of the dual carriageway. Safety will be improved by increasing the overtaking opportunities. The works are scheduled to be completed by Christmas this year and will significantly enhance safety for all road users on this major route.