

**ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL AMENDMENT BILL 2011**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr R.F. Johnson (Minister for Road Safety)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

*Second Reading*

**MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys — Minister for Road Safety)** [12.37 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce legislation to the house that gives effect to the government's commitment to reducing road trauma in Western Australia. Each year in Western Australia, approximately 200 people are killed and a further 2 800 are seriously injured on our roads. Apart from the emotional impacts on the families and friends of those involved, this road trauma results in a financial cost to our state of approximately \$2.3 billion.

This bill will provide a substantially increased, dedicated source of funding for road safety in Western Australia that will significantly reduce road trauma in WA for the benefit of the community as a whole. The state road safety strategy, Towards Zero, is a world-leading road safety strategy, which it is anticipated will save about 11 000 people from being killed or seriously injured on our roads by 2020—a reduction of about 40 per cent on current levels.

One of the sources of funding for this strategy is the road trauma trust account, or the account, commonly known as the RTTF—an account established under the Road Safety Council Act 2002, and which will be amended by this bill. The primary source of funds for the road trauma trust account is revenue from photograph-based vehicle infringement notices for speed or red light traffic offences. Currently, only one-third of the revenue raised via the photograph-based vehicle infringement notices is credited to the account, with the remainder going into consolidated revenue. This bill increases the amount to be credited to the account from one-third to two-thirds from 1 July 2011, and then to 100 per cent from 1 July 2012. As a result of these amendments, the amount of money that flows into the road trauma trust account to enable the government, through the Road Safety Council, to deliver its 12-year road safety strategy and reduce road trauma in Western Australia will triple.

In accordance with section 12(6) of the Road Safety Council Act 2002, the Road Safety Council makes an annual recommendation to the Minister for Road Safety about the best way to allocate the moneys standing in credit to the road trauma trust account to reduce deaths and injuries to people from incidents on roads. The minister then determines how the moneys will be spent. This bill introduces an amendment that will enable the Minister for Road Safety to direct the Road Safety Council to make a recommendation to him about whether specific projects should be funded from the account. The minister will be required to table any such direction in Parliament within 14 sitting days. To ensure thorough oversight of the additional moneys credited to the account, following enactment of the bill a range of administrative arrangements will be put in place to govern expenditure from the account. These arrangements will require the development of business cases to support significant projects, and all expenditure will require cabinet approval.

Road safety is a key priority for this government. The effective implementation of the Towards Zero road safety strategy is very important to the state in reducing both the level of pain and suffering endured by the community and the financial cost it imposes. These impacts include the costs to the economy that result when workers are unable to work due to death or having been seriously injured. This bill is further evidence of the government's high level of commitment to the development of a healthier lifestyle for Western Australians where road deaths and serious injuries are significantly reduced.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms R. Saffioti**.