

OLD VASSE ROAD, UPGRADING

448. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

I refer to the status of Old Vasse Road adjacent to Warren National Park, and ask -

- (a) which Government Department or agency controls Old Vasse Road (sometimes known as Ralph Road);
- (b) is the Minister aware that this road is a very important tourist road and is often dangerous because of potholes and dust; and
 - (i) if not why not;
- (c) is there a plan to bituminise this road; and
 - (i) if not, why not;
- (d) will the Government support either direct funding or joint funding by Government agencies with a responsibility for the road to bituminise the road; and
- (e) given the strategic importance of Old Vasse Road to tourism in the Pemberton district, when will the Government upgrade the road to bitumen status?

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:

- (a) Old Vasse Road is a local road and is under the care and management of the Shire of Manjimup.
- (b) The importance of the road is acknowledged and it is understood the Shire of Manjimup has included this road in its submission for consideration as a significant road in the new Roads 2025 strategy, which is currently being developed.
- (c) Council has advised that ultimately it intends to bituminise this road and as such they have included this in the outer years of their funding submission to the Regional Road Group. The Gallop Government has significantly increased regional road funding for 2005/2006 in the Great Southern and South West regional areas by more than \$6 million.
- (d) As a local road, funding for any upgrade would be the responsibility of the Shire of Manjimup. Funding is available to Council from a number of sources, including via the Regional Road Group (RRG) subject to both Shire and South West Regional priorities. Under this funding arrangement the cost would be shared 2/3rds RRG (State funds) and 1/3rd Shire
- (e) The timing for any upgrade is the responsibility of the Shire of Manjimup.