

LOFTUS STREET, LEEDERVILLE, TRAFFIC LEVELS

343. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the average traffic level on Loftus Street prior to the Graham Farmer Freeway opening?
- (2) What assessment of the traffic level on Loftus Street has been undertaken since the Graham Farmer Freeway opening?
- (3) What was the result of that assessment?
- (4) Will the minister table the traffic flow assessment for Loftus Street; and, if not, why not?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The member said “was” and my copy of the question says “is” so we will see how the answer goes.

- (1) On the basis that I mentioned, a major upgrade of Loftus Street was completed in January 2000 involving the provision of six lanes between Wellington and Vincent Streets and allowing improved turning facilities at a number of intersections along this route. This work was undertaken to improve safety and to assist traffic flows on Loftus Street, which have been increasing steadily in recent years. Since the opening of the Graham Farmer Freeway, a video surveillance camera has been installed near the Wellington and Loftus Streets intersection and Main Roads WA has been constantly monitoring the traffic flow in the area. Although some congestion is experienced during peak periods, traffic in this area is flowing relatively freely and very few complaints have been received by the traffic operations centre.
- (2) Before the opening of the Graham Farmer Freeway, the annual average weekday traffic at the various locations along Loftus Street was 42 450 vehicles a day at the rail bridge in 1998-1999 and 24 130 at a location just north of Newcastle Street in 1997-98.
- (3) Since the opening of the Graham Farmer Freeway, traffic count volumes have been recorded at these sites on approximately a monthly basis. The traffic volumes recorded on Loftus Street since the opening of the Graham Farmer Freeway and upgrading of Loftus and Thomas Streets are as follows: At the rail bridge, traffic volumes have ranged from approximately 47 400 to 50 300 vehicles a day; and north of Newcastle Street, traffic volumes have ranged from approximately 28 000 to 30 800 a day.
- (4) Not applicable.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I ask that the business of the House be resumed.

Point of Order

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Mr President, is there a standing order that I can draw upon to encourage the Leader of the House to be generous with the time of the House in dealing with extra questions, particularly in view of the preparedness of the Labor Party to support extended sitting hours - or the former preparedness?

The PRESIDENT: The answer to the Leader of the Opposition’s point of order is no.