

GOLDFIELDS HIGHWAY — SEALING WORKS

1920. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the completed sealing works on the Goldfields Highway between Wiluna and Meekatharra, and ask:

- (a) how much is in the current budget and what will be in the next budget for the sealing of the Goldfields Highway between Wiluna and Meekatharra;
- (b) can you advise why only approximately 100 kms of the 180 km stretch of the Goldfields Highway between Wiluna and Meekatharra has been sealed;
- (c) when do you expect the Goldfields Highway between Wiluna and Meekatharra to be fully sealed;
- (d) what are the cost savings, efficiencies or economies to only partially seal the 180 km stretch of road; and
- (e) are you aware that recent flooding in mid-January 2014 caused all roads (unsealed) to be closed, effectively cutting off the town of Wiluna and disrupting essential services such as medical supplies?

Mr D.C. Nalder replied:

Main Roads Western Australia advises:

- (a) \$19.570m is allocated in the 2013-14 Budget. Project funding consideration for the 2014/15 State Budget is currently underway.
- (b) The sealing of the Wiluna to Meekatharra section of Goldfields Highway is considered annually and must compete for the limited funding available against other priority works during the State budget process.
- (c) There is no timeline to complete the sealing. However, funding will continue to be considered against other priorities in future budget processes. The Member may recall that the sealing of this road was a broken Labor election commitment from the 2001 State election.
- (d) Sealing the road progressively enables Main Roads to take advantage of smaller funding amounts that can be prioritised to target sections of Highway that will improve road safety, travel time and reduce ongoing maintenance costs.
- (e) Yes, unfortunately this abnormal rainfall event disrupted services widely, across the Pilbara, Midwest and Goldfields regions.