

**ROADS — INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE**

635. Hon Adele Farina to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the reference, in the *Main Roads Western Australia Annual Report 2012* on page 7, to road infrastructure damaged by natural disasters over the last twelve months, and I ask:

- (a) which roads were damaged and what natural disasters caused each instance of damage;
- (b) what was the extent of the damage in each case; and
- (c) the report says \$41 million was provided to reinstate and reopen roads after natural disaster, yet on page 115 the report says the average cost of network maintenance per kilometre of road network target was not met largely due to excessive unfunded expenditure arising from declared natural disasters, what was the total cost of damage caused to roads by natural disasters referred to in the report?

**Hon Jim Chown replied:**

- (a) In excess of 1 000 Local and State Government owned roads within the Great Southern, South West, Gascoyne, Midwest, Goldfields–Esperance, Kimberley, Wheatbelt North, Wheatbelt South and Pilbara districts were damaged as a result of 15 proclaimed natural disasters. These events are recorded by Australian Government Reference Number and DFES Event Name:

341 DFES Event Name: Tropical lows and associated flooding

364 Tropical Cyclone Laurence and associated flooding

384 West Coast Storm

418 Monsoonal low and associated flooding

427 Severe thunderstorm

433 Severe thunderstorms

434 Tropical Cyclone Carlos

435 Severe weather

436 Severe thunderstorms and associated flooding

440 Monsoonal trough and associated flooding

445 Severe thunderstorm (Toodyay)

453 Severe storm

465 Severe thunderstorms and associated flooding

470 Severe thunderstorms and associated flooding

487 Tropical Cyclone Lua and associated flooding

- (b) The extent of the damage ranged from complete loss of the road asset due to flooding or damage to unsealed pavement down to less significant damage such as scouring of unsealed shoulders, damage to signage or trees and debris across the road.
- (c) The total cost of damage was \$46.8m of which \$41.4m was provided for by the Australian Government via the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Expenditure related to the above natural disaster events was unbudgeted / unfunded when the target was set for 2011–12 and therefore contributed to the increase in the average cost of network maintenance as reported in the Main Roads Annual Report.