

ROAD TRAFFIC — BINDI BINDI BENDS

**550. Hon BRIAN ELLIS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the notorious Bindi Bindi bends in the Moora district.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the state and commonwealth funds allocated to the realignment of the Bindi Bindi bends on the Great Northern Highway are still available for the project; and, if yes, when will the project commence?
- (2) What are the benefits to the local community and to the state of these improvements to the Great Northern Highway?
- (3) When the proposed realignment proceeds, will adequate heavy vehicle parking be permanently incorporated into the project?
- (4) Are plans in place to address the safety concerns of the Miling community with regard to traffic movements through the town and past the local primary school during and following the realignment of the Bindi Bindi bends?

**Hon JIM CHOWN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The minister is pleased to confirm that this Liberal–National state government has prioritised funding to upgrade the notorious Bindi Bindi bends south of Miling. The member can be assured that funds are in place and committed. Works were scheduled to commence this week, on 16 September 2013, with all site works due for completion by early 2015.
- (2) Great Northern Highway now becomes a continuous road at Bindi Bindi. The level crossing at Bindi Bindi will also be upgraded to incorporate advanced warning signals and boom gates, greatly improving safety for all road and rail users. Other benefits include improved road safety and efficiency with widened seal, improved road geometry and safer access from local roads and adjacent properties. Excluding the area adjacent to the level crossing, the speed limit will also be increased to 110 kilometres an hour from the current 80 kilometres an hour posting.
- (3) The proposed works include the construction of a truck bay at the northern end of the works, near Lyons East Road. This truck bay and its accesses have been widened to allow for heavy vehicle parking, whilst maintaining through-traffic, and will also allow for oversized, over mass permit vehicle access.
- (4) The minister acknowledges the recent work undertaken by the member on behalf of the Miling community. Main Roads WA will be investigating options to improve safety through the town site and past the primary school. This will include the prioritisation of flashing LED speed signs to ensure motorists, particularly drivers of heavy vehicles, are aware of school activity in the vicinity of this extremely busy section of road.

I have just been informed by Main Roads at Northam that the double barrier line markings were installed yesterday in the main street of Miling. A ground survey will also be undertaken through Miling to enable development of design concepts, incorporating traffic-calming measures.