

ELECTRIC VEHICLE EXCISE — HIGH COURT RULING

**785. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:**

I have a supplementary question. In light of the High Court's decision, will the minister reassure Western Australians that she will not seek to raise taxes and charges in other ways to make up any future shortfall?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

Of course not—as in, of course we are not going to raise taxes and charges, unlike the previous government. We will seek a nationally consistent approach to address this issue. We are very, very keen to do that. With regard to federal funding, it is a concern, particularly for regional WA, in respect of road funding and how that will be sourced in the future. As I have always said, there has to be a way to pay for our roads, but we believe it should be a nationally consistent approach. It is of paramount importance for regional WA that all states and territories get together because the cost of providing roads throughout regional Western Australia is very, very high. We have a massive state, as we know. We have the significantly largest amount of the National Highway and other highways of the nation, and regional people will need to continue to have access to incredibly good roads.

This is something that has been the case for many, many years: I am very proud that our road network in WA is very good. I hear feedback from people and I see letters to the editor from people from other states who might have travelled in WA in caravans talking about the quality of our roads compared with those of other states. I do not want to ever see that diminish. Because of the impacts on road safety and freight costs, we want a good road network. This is a major national issue, and, as I have always said, a nationally led consistent approach would be my absolutely ideal outcome because I do not think having different systems is good in the contexts of the Federation and efficiency going forward.