

MAIN ROADS WA, LAND RESUMPTION, LOFTUS-NEWCASTLE STREETS

139. Hon Tom Stephens to the Minister for Transport:

In answer to question without notice 1140 of May 30 2000, the Minister replied that, although access off Newcastle Street did not fully comply with the Australian road safety standards, the safety provisions were considered adequate. Given a road safety audit at the site stated that any vehicle access at this location would not comply with the relevant Australian or Austroad Standards nor Main Roads WA's own design standards and could not be supported on traffic safety grounds -

- (1) Can the Minister detail which road safety experts considered the safety provisions were adequate?
- (2) How did they reach their conclusion?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1)-(2) The assessment, which was conducted by the Traffic and Safety Branch of Main Roads, was undertaken on the basis that Council could attach subsequent conditions to its approval in order to provide for access to the site. This would be considered in conjunction with any Main Roads' requirements and improvement solutions because of the proximity of their traffic signals at Loftus and Newcastle. It must be appreciated that every property access has some degree of safety, some safer than others. For the above reasons this particular location warranted further consideration because it failed to fully comply with road safety standards. Main Roads believed that both Council and Main Roads safety issues could be managed through other means which may include consideration of gradients, visibility, mirrors, shared access, sensors, truncations, modifying retaining walls etc. Under law, Council cannot refuse access, but despite this Council has decided not to support access. Obviously there are degrees of safety applying to different sites and there remain concerns about this site being in need of further consideration to make it as safe as possible because it is a corner site adjacent to a very busy intersection. Because of this Main Roads engaged independent safety audit experts that have subsequently confirmed satisfactory access from Newcastle Street to the property can be achieved.