

HIGH, WIDE LOAD CORRIDORS, BUDGET ALLOCATION

**486. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

I refer to the response to question on notice 107 on 16 October 2002, regarding the budget allocation for the establishment of high, wide load corridors. The parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure said -

The establishment of these corridors is important to the State's manufacturing industry . . .

- (1) Given this acknowledged level of importance, does the minister concede that expenditure of \$1.059 million for 2001-02 out of the budget allocation of \$14 million for 2001-02 for the establishment of high, wide load corridors represents a failure by the Government to deliver important infrastructure works needed to support the State's manufacturing industry?
- (2) Given that there has been expenditure of \$1.059 million on this project in 2001-02, and estimated expenditure of \$941 000 in 2002-03, can the minister indicate where the balance of the 2001-02 budget allocation of \$14 million is shown in the current budget papers?
- (3) Can the minister confirm industry concerns that the unspent balance of \$12 million has been siphoned off to cover the cost blow-outs of the southern metropolitan rail project? If not, where have the funds been allocated?

**Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The minister has advised as follows -

- (1)-(2) The Government sees the identification and development of high, wide load corridors as one of many priorities for improving transport efficiencies and supporting our State's manufacturing industries. In fact, work on the high priority coastal corridor from Ennis Avenue to Jervoise Bay is due for completion by the end of December 2002, at a total cost of \$2 million. This work will allow high, wide loads to travel from industrial areas at Rockingham and Kwinana to Jervoise Bay under traffic management conditions. The next phase of this project will also involve various intersection works and median crossings southward to Safety Bay Road. Planning is also under way to achieve unrestricted access for high, wide loads along the coastal corridor.

The strategy is being developed in close consultation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia and other stakeholders. Works to the value of \$1.5 million have been identified to achieve this and funding avenues are being investigated. Main Roads is also developing strategies for the upgrading of the inland routes linking the Kewdale and Welshpool industrial areas to Jervoise Bay and also providing access for high, wide loads from Kewdale to Great Northern and Great Eastern Highways. Development of these routes must be considered in the light of overall government priorities and will be achieved through cooperation and consultation with our industries and the community.

- (3) There is no cost blow-out on the south west metropolitan rail project. However, it has been necessary to allocate an additional \$7 million to cover the chronic mismanagement of the transport budget, particularly school bus contracts.