

REGIONAL ROAD GROUPS, FUNDING

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

Given that local governments are preparing their budgets for 2003-04 and matching funds will be required, when will notification of funding to the regional road groups from the state road funds to local governments be announced?

Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The minister advises that the Government established the Functional Review Taskforce to examine every item of state government expenditure to ensure government priorities were being delivered and taxpayers received value for money. The key objective of the functional review was to identify savings to help fund priority service areas and manage the budget bottom line. The functional review has made a wide range of recommendations, many of which are being evaluated in the 2003-04 budget process. Until decisions are made relating to these recommendations, notification of funding to regional road groups will not be announced. The minister has undertaken to local government to do as much as possible to insulate regional road groups from funding cuts.