

GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY, SPEED LIMIT

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

- (1) What criteria were used to reduce the speed limit on Great Eastern Highway from Greenmount to Mundaring-Glen Forrest?
- (2) Was a speed safety review conducted; and, if so, will the minister table the document?
- (3) Was this a result of a fatal crash investigation; and, if so, will the minister table that report?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I seek leave to have the response incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated -

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- (1) The speed limit on Great Eastern Highway, between Glen Forrest and Mundaring, was reduced from 90 km/h to 80 km/h by Main Roads in December 2003 following an assessment of the road, the road environment and the reported crash history.

This section of the Highway was constructed to a dual carriageway standard in 1974 when traffic volumes were in the vicinity of 10 000 vehicles per day. The 90 km/h speed limit was considered appropriate at that time. However, by 2003, traffic volumes had increased to approximately 30 000 vehicles per day resulting in a totally different road environment.

A review of crash data indicated there had been 167 crashes, including six fatal crashes, on approximately 6.5 kilometres of road between Glen Forrest and Mundaring over a five-year period from 1997 to 2001. More recent crash data, which is now available, reveals that there have been 152 crashes, including five fatal crashes, on this section from 1998 to 2002.

These factors are taken into account in speed zoning assessments and Main Roads considers that the reduction in the speed limit will improve safety for all road users, particularly for vehicles entering and exiting the Highway. The change also reduced the number of different speed zones on this section of the Highway, making the zoning more consistent, not just with other sections of Great Eastern Highway, but also with other major approach roads to the metropolitan area.

The reduction in the speed limit from 90 to 80 km/h adds only 33 seconds to travel time between Glen Forrest and Mundaring. This small inconvenience is greatly outweighed by the increased safety for all road users.

The speed limit change is also supported by the Police Service and members of the community.

- (2) Yes, a copy is presented for tabling. I also table a copy of the subsequent WA Limits Report which confirms the appropriateness of the 80 km/h limit.
  - (3) Main Roads regularly reviews the appropriateness of posted speed limits on the road network. The decision to undertake this particular review was based on a range of criteria and not the result of a single fatal crash.
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[See paper No 1944.]