

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 4  
2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

**ROADS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING  
BUDGET ESTIMATES SUPPLEMENTARY HEARING 10 FEBRUARY 2005**

**QUESTION No. 1**

**REVENUE FROM HARVESTERS** – Chair, the Hon Jennifer Gardiner MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

**ANSWER:**

The RTA issues permits to a range of vehicles that may be over-size, over-mass or do not qualify for registration.

An infringement notice is issued by the RTA or the police when a breach of permit conditions is detected and provides details of the offence, the vehicle's registration and the driver's details. The type of vehicle is not recorded on the infringement notice.

As the vehicle type is not obtained or recorded by the RTA, it is not possible to determine how many infringements have been issued for harvesters.

**QUESTION No. 2**

**DRUG DRIVING** – The Hon Don Harwin MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government is proposing to create offences of driving with prescribed illicit drugs present in the body and to authorise Police to obtain samples from drivers at the roadside for the purposes of testing for the presence of the prescribed illicit drugs.

There is also a separate proposal for compulsory drug testing following fatal crashes.

This proposal will authorise Police to require a blood sample from all motor vehicle controllers involved in a fatal traffic accident.

The results of the drug analysis will be used to test for any drug as currently defined in the legislation and support charges for the offence of drive under the influence.

A drug driving interagency working party was convened in November 2004 to manage the research and field trials required before implementation of the proposals.

The working party is currently developing draft legislation to provide for random and post fatal crash testing. The parameters are still being established for a trial.

### **QUESTION Nos. 3a, 3b, 3c & 3d**

**M5 EAST** – The Hon Sylvia Hale MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

#### **ANSWER:**

The Steering Committee to consider the appropriateness and operation of adjustment mechanisms for air quality monitoring data in respect of PM<sub>10</sub> was established in December 2001 under the legal agreement with Residents Against Polluting Stacks. The Committee has met on thirteen occasions since then.

One meeting was postponed and one meeting cancelled.

In 2004 there was a period of several months when it was not possible to have both of the air quality consultants and the RTA and EPA members of the Committee available at one time. At least one non RTA member of the Committee was overseas for several weeks and others also had periods of leave and prior business commitments.

The RTA has continued to support this Committee and its scientific work with considerable financial support and professional commitment and has adhered to the legal agreement with the residents' group. All parties recognise that the work has required much greater scientific analysis than was originally envisaged and consequently the work has taken much longer than anticipated.

### **QUESTION Nos. 4a, 4b & 4c**

**COMPULSORY LAND ACQUISITION** – The Hon Sylvia Hale MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

#### **ANSWER:**

In the 2004 calendar year thirty eight of the RTA's compulsory acquisition matters listed in the Land and Environment Court were concluded.

Seventeen matters were determined by the Court which awarded compensation totalling \$38,061,572. This compares with claims by the Applicants of \$73,990,557.

Twenty-one matters were settled out of Court for a total amount of \$17,014,364. This compares with claims by the Applicants of \$32,241,459.

The RTA's compensation offers are based on determinations by the Valuer General.

Part of the costs budgeted for approved development projects include an estimate for land acquisition.

#### **QUESTION No. 5**

**STRONGS ROAD, JASPERS BRUSH** – The Hon Don Harwin MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

#### **ANSWER:**

Construction is underway on a \$450,000 upgrade to the junction of the Princes Highway and Strongs Road, Jaspers Brush, as part of the \$30 million road safety package for the Princes Highway.

The key feature of the upgrade is the addition of a separate right turn lane for southbound motorists into Strongs Road. This will mean greater safety for all motorists using the highway.

Once work is completed, southbound motorists will have one full uninterrupted lane for through-traffic and a right-turn lane for traffic turning into Strongs Road.

The existing 'slow lane' for northbound traffic will become an overtaking lane and an additional 'slow lane' will be built for a distance of 800 metres.

A northbound bus bay will also be located opposite the existing southbound bus bay, and new line-marking will improve safety on the approaches to the junction.

The \$30 million Princes Highway Safety Package will enhance the work already underway as part of the Government's 10-year, \$380 million upgrade.

#### **QUESTION No. 6**

**PRINCES HIGHWAY FEDERAL FUNDING** – The Hon Don Harwin MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

#### **ANSWER:**

In June 2004, the Federal Government announced \$20 million for Princes Highway blackspots over the next two years. Of this amount, \$5 million was provided towards a new Pambula River Bridge and \$15 million for treatments between South Nowra and Jervis Bay Road.

There are other sections of Princes Highway that have a higher priority for addressing blackspots based on accident rates. That's why in December 2004 the State Government announced \$30M over the next three years for safety improvements.

Proposals to utilise the Federal funding of \$15M are being finalised in consultation with the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services.

### **QUESTION No. 7**

**PRINCES HIGHWAY REPLACEMENT OF WOODEN BARRIERS** – The Hon Don Harwin MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

#### **ANSWER:**

The RTA has identified several sites which would benefit by replacing wooden post and chain wire fencing with new wire rope safety barriers on the Princes Highway.

Initial investigations have identified:

- Four sites between Falls Creek and Wandandian;
- Three sites between Dalmeny and Narooma;
- Two sites between Quaama and Bega; and
- One site between Pambula and Eden.

These initial investigations were part of the \$30 million road safety package for the Princes Highway announced by the Government in December 2004.

### **QUESTION No. 8**

**BRIDGE UPGRADING WORK** – The Hon Don Harwin MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

What is the progress of upgrade works to the Conjola Creek bridge, to the Croobyar Creek bridge, which is just north of Milton, and to the bridge over Condie's Creek at Wandandian?

#### **ANSWER:**

The NSW Government has provided almost \$1 million this year for planning, design and associated environmental reviews on the Conjola Creek, Croobyar Creek and Condie's Creek Bridges along the Princes Highway.

Planning and design work for the three bridges is well advanced.

A Review of Environmental Factors for Croobyar Creek Bridge, north of Milton, is almost complete.

Detailed designs are being prepared and once those are complete, around mid 2005, the RTA will finalise land acquisitions.

The bridge and road approach design for Condies Creek Bridge at Wandandian is also nearing completion.

A Heritage issue for Conjola Creek Bridge was being investigated.

Once this is resolved, the bridge and road approach design plans can be finalised.

### **QUESTION No. 9**

**PRINCES HIGHWAY OVERTAKING LANES** – The Hon Don Harwin MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

#### **ANSWER:**

A northbound overtaking lane was provided last year by the State Government between Milton and Ulladulla.

In June 2004, the Federal Government announced \$15M for blackspots on the Princes Highway between South Nowra and Jervis Bay Road. Proposals to utilise this Federal funding are being finalised in consultation with the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services.

In addition in December 2004 the State Government announced \$30M over the next three years for safety improvements for the Princes Highway. Projects are continuing to be identified as part of this program.

### **QUESTION Nos. 10a & 10b**

**RTA CHECKS ON BUSES** – The Hon David Oldfield MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

#### **ANSWER:**

State Transit buses are inspected to the same standards and requirements as private bus companies.

State Transit are certified to complete their own inspections. The inspection is compulsory for State Transit Buses and as they are public passenger vehicles they are subject to two inspections per year.

### **QUESTION No. 11**

**TOPDALE ROAD** – Chair, the Hon Jennifer Gardiner MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

#### **ANSWER:**

Work is underway to upgrade a section of Topdale Road, 7km west of Thunderbolts Way.

The NSW Government has provided a special grant of \$300,000 to Walcha Council for a further upgrade on Topdale Road.

Topdale Road is a regional road that acts as a route for local traffic between Tamworth and the mid-North coast.

As part of this project, this section will be realigned, widened and sealed to improve road safety, visibility and travelling conditions for motorists.

It is expected these improvements will be completed over the next four months.

This project follows the completion in late February 2005 of an upgrade on a 2km section of the road, 8.8km west of Thunderbolts Way, at a cost of \$175,000.

### **QUESTION No. 12**

**BOWNING DEVIATION** – Chair, the Hon Jennifer Gardiner MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

#### **ANSWER:**

The NSW Government is investing around \$11 million to construct a deviation on the Burley Griffin Way to bypass Bowning and connect with the Hume Highway.

Construction of the first stage of the Bowning Deviation is underway involving a new \$2.5 million intersection on the Hume Highway west of Bowning.

When complete the project will allow B-Doubles into the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, reducing transport costs and boosting efficiency for local producers.

Work on the intersection is scheduled to be complete during 2005.

The RTA advise planning is complete and tender documents are currently being prepared for the next stage of the project involving the construction of the 2.25 kilometre two-lane road to connect the Burley Griffin Way with the new intersection on the Hume Highway.

The entire project is scheduled for completion in early 2007.

### **QUESTION No. 13**

**ALPINE WAY** – Chair, the Hon Jennifer Gardiner MLC to the Chief Executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

**ANSWER:**

The section of the Alpine Way from the Kosciuszko National Park to the Victorian border is presently a Regional Road for which Tumbarumba Shire Council is responsible. Decisions concerning the priority of improvement works are therefore matters for Council to determine.