

STATE TRAIL BIKE STRATEGY

560. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the June 2008 report “Back on Track: WA State Trail Bike Strategy” commissioned by the state government. WA has an estimated 50 000 trail bike riders.

- (1) When will funding be available to allow for the implementation of the recommendations of this four-year-old report?
- (2) When will the recommendations formulated around the six key focus areas be implemented?
- (3) Is it true that the minister is going to tax trail bike riders to implement the recommendations?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

(1)–(3) I thank the member for Collie–Preston for his question on trail bikes. It is an issue we have been dealing with. It is very complex; it is right across a number of government departments.

Several members interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Yes, we have —

The SPEAKER: Member for Maylands, member for Kwinana, I formally call you both to order for the first time today. I do not want to hear further interjections; I want to hear from the minister.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The cabinet noted the submission I made concerning trail bikes. Part of what we wanted to try to do with trail bikes was introduce a new fee and licensing regime. We have decided that we need to take further action on the licensing side of this. There are quite a few issues. The Minister for Transport and the transport department have been finalising a review of the proposed licensing and registration regime. To implement that, I think exemptions would need to be made. There are issues with what we charge and issues with how that helps finance the trail bike strategy itself.

Several members interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We are looking at the licensing side of things. In the meantime, we did some interim work —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Kwinana, I formally call you to order for the second time today. Member for Mandurah, I instruct you that you are no ventriloquist. I formally call you to order for the first time today.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: There are some issues with licensing et cetera, and we are trying to work through those issues. We want to assess the legislative implications also in implementing and enforcing the registration of off-road vehicles; we are also looking at that.

We have done work up at Gngangara, and we are looking now at —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I formally call you to order for the first time today. Member for West Swan, I formally call you to order for the first time today. Member for Belmont, I do not want to hear you talking.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I just make the point that even with some of the accidents, which really concern me, and even with the introduction of the report on the trail bike strategy, I do not think a lot of that will stop some of these accidents happening. The key thing is to provide upgrades to the areas we have now and also upgrade new areas. We have already done some of that. We are now working on a proposal to look at —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Darling Range, I formally call you to order for the first time today. Member for Kwinana, you are on three calls; I formally call you to order for the third time today. I am sure you want to stay in this place.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is difficult to implement this and to do it properly. When we had the debate here before, one of the things I said is that we must get this right. There are some issues with the licensing that we are looking at. In the meantime —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I formally call you to order for the second and third time today.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We must get this right. We have had ongoing consultation with the industry. That is why we did the interim works at Gnangara.

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

The SPEAKER: Fascinating! Member for Maylands, I formally call you to order for the second time today. I would love to get through this question. I would like to get through the answer as well, minister.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am trying, Mr Speaker.

We also did an education and communication program, and a volunteer management and community awareness program, but we do need other areas, and that is my focus.