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Natalie Ward
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Natalie Ward

Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Roads

MEDIA RELEASE

04 October 2023

WRONG PRIORITIES FOR ROAD SAFETY

The NSW Opposition has criticised the Labor Government for demonstrating its wrong priorities regarding road safety policy following the Government’s first budget.

With the road toll on year-to-date figures up 26% compared to the previous year, analysis by the Opposition has revealed a 34% decrease in the allocation for road safety initiatives in this financial year.

Road Safety Expenditure¹

Financial Year	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Road Safety Allocation ('000)	\$ 331,076	\$ 331,515	\$ 421,521	\$ 280,294
Change on previous year		0%	27%	-34%
Percentage change over four years	-15%			

Road Fatality Rate²:

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Road Fatalities (Year to end of September)	221	195	214	270
Percentage Change compared to previous year (Year to end of September)		-12%	+10%	+26%
Change over four years YTD	+22%			

Shadow Minister for Roads Natalie Ward commented “We will support the Government when it comes to road safety policy, but I question if the Government’s eye is on the ball right now.”

“Working towards the ambitious target of zero fatalities or serious injuries on NSW roads by 2050 requires sustained effort across successive Governments and I think It is fair question the priorities of this Government when it appears funding has been cut.”

“The measure of any Roads Minister is what steps they take to keep people safe, and I question where this important area is on the priority list for the new Government.”

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¹ Road Safety Allocation for each NSW State Budget

² Source: Centre for Road Safety

497 - Regional Transport and Roads - REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD

Farraway, Sam to the Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy representing the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

- (1) How many 2023 Regional Seniors Travel Card have been applied for as at 14 June 2023?
- (2) How many Regional Seniors Travel Cards have been applied for since the start of the program in 2020?
- (3) Will the Regional Seniors Travel Card be expanded to include Blue Mountains and Wollongong local government areas?
- (4) Will the extension of the Regional Seniors Travel Card be included in the September budget?
- (5) What is the cost break down of administering the Regional Seniors Travel card per card?
 - (a) Is there a cost per card?
- (6) Does the Regional Seniors Travel Card come under review in the Strategic Infrastructure Review?
- (7) Can a regional senior purchase a bottle of Fanta, cigarettes or a packet of lollies using the Regional Seniors Travel Card?
- (8) How many non fuel related items have been purchased using the Regional Seniors Travel Card in 2023?

Answer -

I am advised

- (1) 320,492 Regional Seniors Travel Card have been applied for as at 14 June 2023.
- (2) 1,374,329 Regional Seniors Travel Cards have been applied for since the start of the program in 2020.
- (3) The program is currently under review given the poor design parameters set by the former Liberal-National government, which allowed card holders to purchase cigarettes, scratchies, soft drink and confectionary and other non-travel related items at service station outlets.
- (4) Decisions made as part of the State Budget will be communicated as part of the budget.
- (5) Administration costs have a variable element. However, these costs are around 16 per cent of the scheme costs.
- (6) No.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) The poor design parameters set by the former Liberal-National government, do not allow for data to be provided on non-fuel expenses at service stations such as cigarettes, soft drink, scratchies and confectionary.

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Answer received on 6 July 2023 and published in Questions & Answers Paper No. 42

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