

Question on Notice

No. 1734

Asked on Wednesday 11 November 2009

MR EMERSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MAIN ROADS (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to increasing constituent concerns regarding rubbish on the Western Freeway—

Will the Minister advise how often the Western Freeway is cleaned?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Indooroopilly for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads contractor (RoadTek) coordinates litter removal on the Centenary Highway and Western Freeway with the regular mowing cycle, which is usually between six to eight weeks, depending on the weather conditions.

Departmental officers work within an allocated budget each financial year and the department's number one priority at all times is safety.

As such, maintenance works are prioritised firstly by safety, secondly by asset preservation and finally works for aesthetic reasons, such as mowing and litter removal.

Where debris is obstructing traffic lanes and considered a hazard to motorists, the department will arrange for removal of the obstruction as soon as it is alerted to it.

Across the Metropolitan Region, the department spent \$799,227.92 on litter removal in the financial year 2008-09 and has spent \$43,848.68 during the first two months of this financial year 2009-10. This is money that can then not be spent on vital road upgrades, rehabilitation and maintenance.

It is important to remember that litter builds up on the sides of our roads and motorways because of the inconsiderate and illegal behaviour of some motorists.

I urge motorists to remember that littering is an offence and I encourage them to be mindful of the need to keep road sides clean for the benefit of our communities.