

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 778

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Mr G R Morgan (DA) asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether SA National Roads Agency Ltd (Sanral) has conducted a study to determine the effect that the location of the Marianhill toll plaza on the N3 road has on truck volumes on the M13 road; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether Sanral will consider moving the existing toll plaza closer to Hammarsdale in order to prevent the diversion of trucks onto the M13 road; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,
- (3) whether he will launch any other initiative to minimise the diversion of trucks onto the M13 road; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY:

The Minister of Transport:

- (1) As will be appreciated by the Honourable Member, there are a myriad of reasons why trucks would use the M13. These are not only related to the location of the Marianhill Toll Plaza. The location of the overload control weighbridge at Marianhill also influences the route that truckers use.

Two scenarios are considered here:

- Firstly, the location of the Toll Plaza at Marianhill on the N3 toll section between Paradise Valley to Key Ridge; and
- secondly, the location of the overload control weighbridge at Marianhill, south of the Toll Plaza.

However, the diversion of traffic to the M13 is considered minimal (and most of it is local traffic) as the traffic volumes monitored at the Toll Plaza have always shown an increase in traffic over the years. The South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) also understands that the provincial traffic department imposed restrictions on heavy vehicles not to use the M13 between 06:00 and 08:00 daily in order to reduce congestion on this road.

- (2) SANRAL is investigating various options in connection with this road, including the improvement and upgrading of the N3 between Durban and Pietermaritzburg (including the addition of a third lane on both the north and southbound carriageways between Cato Ridge and Town Hill).
- (3) As alluded to above under (1), the control and effective law enforcement on the M13, together with the application of load restriction, would minimise any unlawful diversions.