

REGIONAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

**375. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$4.2 billion investment in job-creating road infrastructure, including record funding for regional roads. Can the minister outline to the house how this investment will deliver 25 major job-creating road projects, including work on widening Bussell Highway, and can she advise the house whether she is aware of anyone who is misleading the community about this government's investment in roads?

**The SPEAKER:** Minister.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Scarborough, I call you to order for the first time.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Bunbury for the incredible question and for his commitment to local jobs, local businesses and road improvements throughout the south west. We have a record spending of \$4.2 billion on road infrastructure around the state. Members in the area of Bunbury have taken much interest in the funding of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road. As part of that, we have been able to identify \$4 million for preloading works on Bussell Highway widening, member for Vasse. That is something that the member for Vasse welcomed and about which she made some positive comments, so I thank her. Member for Pilbara, around the state we have the Karratha–Tom Price Road. Mr Speaker, we have the Albany ring-road and South Coast Highway —

**The SPEAKER:** Fantastic!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** — and we have projects on Great Northern Highway. The important point is that these projects are employing local people and local businesses and, in the north particularly, the Kimberley and Pilbara projects have involved a big uptake by Aboriginal people. We have seen up to 40 to 50 per cent local Aboriginal employment on those projects. I would like to continue to roll that out across the state, because I think that is really important.

Across the metropolitan area, there has been investment in the northern suburbs, in the southern corridor and the eastern corridor, and the Tonkin Highway improvements. Remember—when the now member for Darling Range was the member for eight and a half years, there was not one cent for the Tonkin Highway extension.

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Not one cent did she deliver to those projects.

**Mr I.C. Blayney** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Geraldton!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** We have been able to get on and do that work. I remember that before the Darling Range by-election, the member said, "The project is all ready, because we got it ready." The former government did nothing on those projects—nothing!

The point I want to make today is that yesterday, the member for Hillarys said that page 143 of the federal budget papers —

**Mr P.A. Katsambanis** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hillarys!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** He said that the project is there. I said, "Where are those words 'Hodges to Hepburn'?"

**Mr P.A. Katsambanis:** They are right there, under congestion.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr B.S. Wyatt** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer, I call you to order for the first time. I was on my feet. Now that we have found you, I know where you are.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** He said there was money specifically for that project. Page 143, he said. It is not there. We know that Christian Porter has been making it up on this project. He said the money was there—\$50 million. He then said, "No. It is not the \$50 million. There is another \$40 million"—which no-one else can see—"for this project." He is now out there, claiming whatever. We know his form. He nearly bankrupted this state. Just to show members how misleading the Liberal Party has been on this project, I have here two advertisements about this project. They are about the Mitchell Freeway widening from Hodges Drive to Hepburn Avenue. The first says that the Liberal Party "delivered" it. I do not know. Members in the northern suburbs, has it been delivered by the Liberal Party?

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I cannot see it. In the other one, they changed it to “delivering”. How about this one? Maybe the new ad for that project should be, “Oops ... we forgot to put it in the budget ... signed Christian Porter and the Liberal Party”.