

MITCHELL FREEWAY EXTENSION

**503. Mr A.P. O'GORMAN to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

Can the minister please report to the house on progress on the extension of Mitchell Freeway from Hodges Drive to Burns Beach Road?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for Joondalup for the question. I also acknowledge the very great interest of the member for Mindarie in this very exciting and important project, another great piece of infrastructure from the Carpenter government. I am pleased to announce that today we selected McMahon Contractors, an excellent Australian company, as the preferred contractor for the extension of the Mitchell Freeway. It is very excited about this contract. The four-kilometre extension of the road north is a complex project. The member for Joondalup was intimately involved in negotiating some complex issues through the area of Connolly because residents were concerned about the elevation of the road. We have been able to very successfully negotiate with the residents and come up with a reasonable, cost-effective solution to the problem for that community. We expect to have that contract signed by September this year. Work will be well and truly under way before the end of the year. I know that the member for Mindarie will shout us a drink because of that. We are very confident that this project will be completed by mid-2008.