

ROE HIGHWAY — STAGE 8 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

160. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the government's 2008 election commitment document titled "Transport Policy Platform" in which the Liberal Party specifically states that, in government, it will provide \$20 million over the next four years to begin construction of the new Roe Highway stage 8 project. The Environmental Protection Authority stated —

Construction within the alignment for Stage 8 of Roe Highway would result in a loss of gradation from wetland to upland vegetation, as well as loss in regionally significant vegetation ...

...

The construction of Roe Highway Stage 8 would also indirectly impact the other wetland areas located outside the alignment through creating a severance in the wetland linkages that occur between Bibra Lake and North Lake, between Roe Swamp and North Lake, as well as the rest of the wetland complex located further to the north.

Can the minister advise the house how the government will address the concerns of the EPA?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I am advised that Main Roads WA is currently reviewing options for the design of stage 8 of Roe Highway and is aware of the issues raised previously by the Environmental Protection Authority in its advice contained in bulletin 1088. The proposal for stage 8 of Roe Highway will be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment.