

FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK PLAN

564. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Transport:

Can the minister please outline to the house why Forrestfield was chosen as the starting location for the very important Forrestfield–Airport Link?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the member for the question.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Mandurah!

Mr D.C. NALDER: I thank the member for Forrestfield for the question because the Forrestfield–Airport Link will transform the way the community out his way will move around our city. By 2021 we will have 20 000 passengers a day on the Forrestfield–Airport Link. Is it amazing that so much negativity is coming from the other side, and I cannot understand that. We are delivering on a project to an area that the Labor Party ignored for the two terms that it was in government. The Labor Party failed to deliver, exactly the same as it failed to deliver for the people of Collie on the Coalfields highway—absolutely nothing while it was in government. It takes the Liberal–National government to be able to deliver a project to the eastern suburbs of Perth, just like we are building a hospital out at Midland.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park!

Mr D.C. NALDER: Just like the funding we are doing on the roads out on the Gateway WA project. The Labor Party failed.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Joondalup, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Warnbro!

Mr D.C. NALDER: There are a few reasons we are starting out at Forrestfield. The first one is that it is practical for a tunnel operation.

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park, I call you to order now for the third time.

Mr D.C. NALDER: The construction of the tunnel launch structure and the assembly of the tunnel boring machines will commence out there, so it is important because it is practical. We are also in negotiations with the airport for the spoil of the tunnel to be used potentially for the third runway. We are starting in Forrestfield because it is a practical solution.

There are also positive comments coming back from people out in the eastern suburbs that the member for Forrestfield has provided to me, and I would like to share a couple. Here are some of the quotes: “Great decision”, “Fantastic work” —

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington!

Mr D.C. NALDER: I continue with the comments: “Sounds awesome”, “It will make it easier to get to work from my boyfriend’s”, “A fine decision”, “Damn it, there is no ‘like’ button on emails” and “Very exciting times for our city”. One of those emails —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Maylands and member for Mirrabooka, I call you both to order for the first time. A shortened version of the quotes, minister, thank you.

Mr D.C. NALDER: I will wind up on those quotes, but there are many, many more. The people out there are actually warming to this project because they know it is fantastic. Some of these people come from other electorates, such as that of the member for West Swan. We have responses from her electorate telling us how fantastic this project is. I cannot understand why the opposition is pouring so much cold water. Is it that opposition members are listening to their spiritual leader who is telling them that we should not do this? I would love to understand whether the Leader of the Opposition agrees with Alannah MacTiernan that this project should not go ahead. We committed to doing it and the Labor Party does not want to deliver it; it has delivered nothing for the eastern suburbs for so long.

