

PEEL DEVIATION, ALLOCATION FOR FUND BLOW-OUT

**674. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

In light of the announcement of the current \$1.2 billion budget surplus, will the minister give an assurance to the people of Peel and the south west regions that a portion of the money will be allocated to fund the cost blow-out in the construction of the Peel deviation to bring forward the commencement of this vital piece of infrastructure?

**Hon ADELE FARINA replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

The state government unashamedly argues that the federal government should match the state's commitment to the road, which is part of the AusLink national transport system, and provide an equal funding share to enable the entire new Perth to Bunbury highway to be constructed, commencing in late 2006. The federal government is funding 95 per cent of the Albury to Wodonga bypass and 50 per cent of the Geelong bypass but will fund only 38 per cent of the bypass around Mandurah. If the federal government does not come on board with the required funding, the state will proceed to construct the Peel deviation from Pinjarra Road to Lake Clifton using its committed funding. The ball is clearly in the federal government's court and the minister encourages the member to take a lead from Barnaby Joyce and stand up for a fair deal for his state.