

ELECTRIC VEHICLES — CHARGING POINTS

980. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Innovation and ICT:

I have a supplementary question. Why, at the announcement, did the minister not even know how many charging stations the electric vehicle network has? Is it because the government —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: It is a bit of a stretch. You do not know how much Metronet costs!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Stop interjecting on me! Minister for Transport, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms L. METTAM: Why, at the announcement, did the minister not even know how many charging stations the EV network has? Is it because the government has failed to do the proper work over four years, or did he just forget?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

We have announced the biggest investment in EV charging networks in Australia. It is the biggest financial investment of any state.

Ms L. Mettam: It is big, but how much?

Mr D.J. KELLY: It is big!

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse!

Mr D.J. KELLY: The network may be big. Yes, she acknowledges that it is big! It will be one of the biggest networks in the world. People will be able to drive from Esperance to Kununurra.

Mr P.A. Katsambanis interjected.

The SPEAKER: Manager of opposition business!

Mr D.J. KELLY: People will be able to go to Kalgoorlie. Once the spine of that network is in place and as EVs pick up, other places will be filled up. We said that we are going to further consult with industry about how we build that network, and that will impact upon exactly where the charging stations are placed, how many there will be, and their size—whether they are 25 kilowatts, 50 kilowatts or 350 kilowatts.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse!

Mr D.J. KELLY: All that will be worked out because we are going to talk to industry about that. Has the member read the University of Western Australia report?

Ms L. Mettam: Yes, I have; did you?

Mr D.J. KELLY: Yes. Then the member will know that a substantial amount of work —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse! I call you to order for the first and second time.

Mr D.J. KELLY: This is extraordinary. This was the question that I was going to get asked later.

The SPEAKER: No, you were not.

Mr D.J. KELLY: We are so pleased with this announcement. Industry is so pleased. Yet, once again, the opposition is nitpicking. We are working with the industry and it is happy. It is extraordinary. It will be one of the longest EV charging networks in the world, the biggest in Australia, and the opposition is not happy.