

MIDLAND PUBLIC HOSPITAL

**744. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Health:**

I understand that the minister celebrated another milestone in the state government's \$7 billion capital works investment for health, with the topping out of the Midland public hospital last week. Could the minister please explain the significance of this milestone to the house?

**Dr K.D. HAMES replied:**

The new Midland public hospital has been a tremendous milestone to achieve. It is a \$360 million project, half of which came from the state and half from the commonwealth. It is on schedule for its opening in 2015 and had what is called a topping-out. That is the finish of the construction process of the external component of the building and means that it is now about 40 per cent complete.

Members may be interested to know some of the history of this hospital and its funding. We have already been through what happened with Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and Fiona Stanley Hospital. This hospital was promised to the people of Western Australia in September 2005 by the former Minister for Health. He promised that he would have this 326-bed hospital completed with up to 200 beds by 2010. By just May 2006, the completion date had moved to 2011. We have seen a pattern of this with Fiona Stanley Hospital. Every year the completion date was moved to a year later.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** By November 2007 —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.J. Kelly:** Supercilious snoop.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Bassendean. I call you to order for the first time.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** I think I do resemble that remark!

Once again, in November 2007, the completion date was put out to 2012. The government of the day had allocated \$193 million to get the project to the 300 beds it had talked about. That was nowhere near enough for a project that has cost a total of \$360 million.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** To get this project to the 307 public beds is part of the \$7 billion we are spending on extending health. The former government announced that it would open in 2012, knowing that it was a three-year project. In May 2008, it was talking about dates of tenders, well before the state election. With construction starting in July 2008, well before the state election, what did we find?

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the first time.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** What did we find when we came to government? We expected construction of the new hospital to be well underway, but there was nothing. There were no plans and no designs and no tenders had been put out.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member!

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** Absolutely nothing had been done to get that project to its completion.

**Ms J.M. Freeman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mirrabooka, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, can you wind this up please?

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** Yes, Mr Speaker, I am just concluding by —

**Ms J.M. Freeman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mirrabooka, I call you to order for the second time.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** Just to conclude, as usual, this government has got on with the job.

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana, I call you to order for the first time.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** I am trying to get this last sentence out.

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana, I call you to order for the second time.

**Dr K.D. HAMES:** I will try the last sentence again. As usual, this government has shown that when it gets into government, it gets on with things. It gets them done and it meets the commitments it made to the people of Western Australia, including Albany Hospital, the Kalgoorlie Hospital upgrade, Busselton Hospital, the Midland public hospital, Perth Children's Hospital and Fiona Stanley Hospital—\$7 billion of construction.