

NORTHLINK WA — COMMENCEMENT

360. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Transport:

My constituents are delighted with the NorthLink WA project. Can the minister give an update to the house, particularly on their interest in the removal of traffic lights on Tonkin Highway?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

I thank the member for Morley. It was a pleasure to be out there this morning with the member for Swan Hills for the sod-turning ceremony, which is the commencement of the NorthLink project, a \$1.12 billion infrastructure project for Western Australia.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan!

Mr D.C. NALDER: It continues to amaze me how much noise we seem to cop when we are creating 1 000 jobs in Western Australia over the next three years.

Mr D.J. Kelly: You completely forgot about Hampton Park Primary School, didn't you? You nearly cut it in half.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the first time—and nearly the second time.

Mr D.C. NALDER: I think in his interjection the member for Bassendean was trying to mislead the house. A lot of hard work was undertaken by the member for Morley to ensure that a great underpass continues to be there for the local community.

I am really pleased that we have started this project. This is the southern section of the NorthLink project, which includes —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

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

Mr D.C. NALDER: It includes three grade separations at Collier Road, Morley Drive and Benara Road. It includes six lanes—three each way—from Guildford Road right through to Reid Highway. The first phase is a \$240 million project. It includes, as I said, the three grade separations. Two of them are full intersections and Benara Road will be a flyover. Seventy thousand vehicles a day use Tonkin Highway. All three intersections are in the top 15 black spots in Western Australia. We are seriously getting on with making our roads safer and more productive. This is a fantastic outcome for industry and the local communities out there in the member for Morley's and the member for Swan Hills' areas.

I would also like to confirm today that we have moved to the preferred proponent for phase 2, which will include the Reid Highway–Tonkin Highway intersection, as well as a new freeway north through to just north of Ellenbrook. It is fully grade separated. The preferred proponent has been identified as the BGC Contracting Pty Ltd–Laing O'Rourke joint venture, and I would like to congratulate them on their tender proposal. Obviously, we are moving into the final contract negotiations. We look forward to construction starting in around September this year.

This will open up the north eastern suburbs. When I talked to the people—I went out and visited the Ellenbrook area with the member for Swan Hills—I found that this is something that they are really looking forward to.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale!

Mr D.C. NALDER: We will be looking to finalise contracts for phase 3 by the end of this year. Phase 3 will open up the Bullsbrook industrial precinct. I have spoken to a number of the industrial land developers out there and they say that they have industry ready to move there now. This will create jobs for the people of Ellenbrook. This will allow them to not only play and live out there, but also work in their environment—so work, rest and play in that area. This is a great project for the northern people. I just think this is another example of the Liberal–National government getting on and making things happen. It is something we can be proud of and I congratulate all those involved.