

2014–15 ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE FINANCES —
TRANSPORT PROJECTS

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

Before I ask my question, I acknowledge the fantastic student leaders and staff from Wattle Grove Primary School in my electorate, with whom I was fortunate enough to have lunch today.

Further to the tabling of the *Annual Report on State Finances* earlier today, can the minister please provide an outline of the major transport projects delivered in 2014–15?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

I listened to what you said earlier, Mr Speaker, and I do not want to incur your wrath by detailing everything that the Liberal–National government has been delivering across Western Australia, because the list is quite extensive.

I will start briefly with cycling infrastructure. Over the past five years the government has spent \$100 million, and it committed last year to another \$72.1 million. During the year, 11.7 kilometres of additional shared path and 2.8 kilometres of on-road infrastructure were provided. The Public Transport Authority is currently halfway through a \$243 million expansion of the railcar fleet. We have added 22 three-car rail sets, so a total of 66 new railcars are now in service. The \$569.3 million Perth City Link project will reconnect the city centre with Northbridge. This is an exciting project for Western Australia, opening up our city. The rail component of the Perth City Link was completed in December 2013, well ahead of the mid-2014 scheduled completion date. Work on the second stage of the project, the Perth bus port, is anticipated to be completed in mid-2016. I talked yesterday about the government's commitment to a \$500 million bus upgrade. Over 65.5 million service kilometres were driven by Transperth buses during 2014–15. This is a growth of 3.5 per cent over the previous financial year, and represents a 26 per cent growth since 2008–09.

Main Roads Western Australia has completed a number of projects. We saw the Graham Farmer Freeway tunnel open up during the year. Over 455 million vehicles have gone through this tunnel.

Mr P.B. Watson: Did it only open up this year?

Mr D.C. NALDER: Last year, 2014–15.

An extra 2.6 kilometres of the Coalfields highway has been completed on the Hamilton River section.

Mr M.P. Murray: Five years to get two kilometres!

Mr D.C. NALDER: I know I have dealt with this interjection on the Coalfields highway before, because the former shadow minister, in 2010, admitted that the Labor government had dropped the ball when it came to the Coalfields highway.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, you have one minute, thank you.

Mr D.C. NALDER: What is really important? Under the state black spot program, 96 projects have been funded—17 projects on state roads and 79 projects on local roads. It was a \$20 million investment. Another 32 projects were funded by the Australian government's black spot program, worth a total of \$7 million. The state has invested more than \$7 million in the railway level crossing upgrade project, to improve the safety of railway level crossings. The opposition is making a lot of noise in this place, so let us ask it about its great public transport program, and whether it is going to add more level crossings.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I do not want the wall of noise. Can you wind up, please?

Mr D.C. NALDER: During the 2014–15 financial year, works were completed on a number of projects to manage congestion—clearway management in the central business district, an on-ramp merge trial to reduce traffic flow breakdown on major freeways, an upgrade of three interchange off-ramps on Roe Highway, and a traffic signal review program. We delivered new sections and upgrades on the pedestrian shared pathways, and more technology was introduced across the road network, including closed-circuit television. This is a responsible government delivering real outcomes for the people of Western Australia.