

ROE HIGHWAY STAGE 8

89. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Premier:

I refer to this government's commitment to protect the jobs of those who were working on Roe 8. Can the Premier advise the house about how this is being done?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Bicton for the question. I am pleased to inform the house that the member for Bicton, the member for Willagee, the Minister for Transport and I went to the Roe 8 site today, and met with the workforce and advised them that 231 jobs had been secured for people who were working on that flawed project, on a range of new projects across Perth. In the short time we have been in office we have managed to resolve that flawed project.

Mr D.C. Nalder: Why is it flawed?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The evidence that it is flawed is the fact that the member for Bateman is now sitting over there.

Mr D.C. Nalder: That is not true; it went through Infrastructure Australia.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That looks like good evidence to me, my friend; it looks like good evidence to me. The people of Western Australia voted and they said that that project was flawed, it was an enormous waste of money, and it was environmental vandalism of the highest order. I was very pleased today to go to the site, and I joined with the workforce, who are now participating in rehabilitating that site, along with members of the local community and an organisation that is chaired by the member for Bicton, who is going to rehabilitate that beautiful part of Perth. On top of that, work will commence on a range of projects that the workforce will move on to—that is, the extension of Murdoch Drive to connect Roe Highway with the Kwinana Freeway; dual carriageway for Armadale Road between Anstey and Tucker Roads; and dual carriageway on Wanneroo Road between Joondalup Drive and Flynn Drive. They are very, very good projects.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the member for Bateman and the Minister for Transport, for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: They are very good projects, to create jobs and opportunities and fix major traffic bottlenecks across our city, as well as rehabilitate that site. Members might recall that the Leader of the Opposition said it would never happen. He said he had good authority from the federal government that it would never happen. He had a senior Liberal source in the federal government telling him it was never going to happen. It appears to me that the Leader of the Opposition might be on the outer with his federal colleagues, and maybe the fact that a couple of days before the state election the now Leader of the Opposition attacked the Prime Minister might have resonated in the minds of the federal cabinet and the Prime Minister, and it may well be that the federal government sees the state government of Western Australia as progressive, active, getting on with the job and fixing the mess the previous government left the state in.

The SPEAKER: Question time is finished.