

PERTH FREIGHT LINK — BUSINESS CASE

254. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the \$1.6 billion of taxpayers' money committed to the flawed Perth Freight Link before a business case was developed. In the interest of full transparency, will the minister now table that business case; and, if not, why not?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

Thank you, member for Bicton. The member for Bicton has asked a very serious question with a very serious point: can we release the business case for the Perth Freight Link project? When I was asked this, I went through the proper process. I asked the agencies whether I could access the Perth Freight Link business case and they said that it went to cabinet, so I would have to ask the Leader of the Opposition. What did we do? We wrote to the Leader of the Opposition and asked will he now give permission to release that business case. The Leader of the Opposition is now in opposition. The project is not happening. For what reason would members opposite want to try to hide that business case?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Everyone else was quiet except one person, member for Bateman. I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We waited and waited for the response and finally got one from the Leader of the Opposition, which states —

Thank you for your recent correspondence requesting access to Cabinet documents in relation to the Perth Freight Link Business Case and Appendix.

In accordance with Cabinet convention, the documents are confidential to the previous Government and I do not consent to the release of those documents ...

This is not a project that is underway.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! There are fast learners and slow learners, member for Carine. I call you to order for the second time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: This is not a project that is underway; there are no commercial sensitivities about this project anymore, because it is not happening. Why would the Leader of the Opposition try to deny it? Was there a business case? Maybe there is no business case; we just do not know. I will talk about the performance that we have just experienced—the leadership faction and the wannabe leadership faction. At no time have we seen division in the Liberal Party more than in relation to that GST submission.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse! Good comment but not at the right time. I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: There is the leadership faction and the wannabe leadership faction.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, the minister is on her feet.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The fact that the opposition Treasurer would not be involved in preparing that submission shows us where the Liberal Party is today.