

BEELIAR WETLANDS — ROE 8

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to protect the Beeliar wetlands and stop the destructive and grossly expensive Roe 8 project. Can the minister outline to the house how the state government will deliver on this important commitment and honour the overwhelming mandate it received at the last election from the people of Western Australia?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Bicton for that very good question.

We went to the 2017 election promising to stop the flawed Perth Freight Link and save the Beeliar wetlands, and of course we got elected. We are delivering the commitments we made to plan for a new port at Kwinana, move more freight onto rail, upgrade High Street and develop intermodal services. As I said, all those commitments are being delivered, and we have protected and saved the Beeliar wetlands for future generations.

We introduced specific legislation in the last term to protect and preserve the Beeliar wetlands. It succeeded in this place, but it was frustrated in the other place. Again, in January this year, we took a commitment to the election not to proceed with Roe 8 and 9 and to save the Beeliar wetlands. Yet again we have introduced that legislation into this place. We thought the Liberal Party would have moved on, but yesterday they were again protesting as though it was the first time they had ever heard about it. The member for Cottesloe was shocked and surprised about our commitment. I thought I would go through some history again, because members know I like to go through history. The other side, the Liberal Party, yet again made Roe 8 and 9 the centrepiece of their election campaign. It was its second-biggest election commitment, just behind the energy plan.

Ms S.F. McGurk: How did they go in that election campaign?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That is a good question. My favourite day was "Honk for Roe 8 and 9" day. I went through to see who was in that "Honk for Roe 8 and 9" picture. It shows the member for Vasse, who is still here, the puppetmaster of the Liberal Party, and, of course, the former Leader of the Opposition, the member for Dawesville. Let us go through all the Liberal candidates. The picture shows the Liberal candidates for Riverton, Fremantle, Jandakot, Bicton, Willagee and Cockburn. What do they all have in common?

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: They are not here! Not only did people not honk for Roe 8 and 9, they did not vote for it either. However, it was good to see the member for Cottesloe go back, yet again, to the 1960s to bring that old policy back. We have all moved on. We are saving the Beeliar wetlands for future generations. We are planning our freight and trade future. We are planning for a new port. We are making sure that we have a port for future generations and we are saving the Beeliar wetlands for future generations. That is forward-thinking policy. We will let them stay in the 1960s, where the Leader of the Liberal Party feels very, very comfortable producing his policies. We are happy to take this issue to the next election. Last term I said, "Let's take it to the 2021 election", and I am happy to take it to the 2025 election.