

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE — GRANT STREET–VICTORIA STREET CYCLEWAY

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in cycling infrastructure that has seen the long neglected missing link from Grant Street to Victoria Street in Cottesloe finally fixed. Can the minister outline to the house how this will improve safety for cyclists travelling to Fremantle; and can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of any threats to this much-needed cycling infrastructure?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Bicton for that question. Of course, I was very pleased to construct and then finally be out there to open the Grant Street–Victoria Street link in relation to the principal shared path. I was joined by the member for Thornlie, who rode 37 kilometres to get there. It was an incredible effort for him to ride from Thornlie to Mosman Park. It was a huge effort for the member for Thornlie to get there. The member for Cottesloe also joined us in a sort of creepy, yet interesting way to also inspect the new cycle path. I thank him for the video acknowledging the effort put in by this government to build the pathway. When I was out there talking to a couple of the local journos they asked me why the previous government did not build it. I said that that was a very good question. I did not know the answer but I thought I might go and investigate. A Labor government delivered this much-needed cycling infrastructure to improve safety, to really connect that local community to schools and to provide a better link into Perth. Of course, that development will be moving to the next stage very soon. I tried to figure out why the previous government did not invest in this PSP, and then it came to me: its plans to create a dual carriageway along Curtin Avenue, for example, meant that it had to put the PSP on hold for all of those years. Its secret road plans —

Mr D.C. Nalder: Oh, it was a secret!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It never told the community. It put this PSP on hold because it had plans for a dual carriageway down Curtin Avenue. It did not want to build a PSP because then it would have to tear it up. We got on with the job of building that dedicated cycling infrastructure and working for the communities of Cottesloe and Mosman Park to make them safer. Members may think that it is slightly funny, but it is one of those projects about which I get approached in the street by people saying, "Thank goodness you're moving on that Grant Street to Victoria Street cyclepath. It was much needed and it was a major safety issue."