

REID HIGHWAY–MALAGA DRIVE INTERSECTION

465. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the government's commitment to construct an interchange at the busy Reid Highway–Malaga Drive overpass, which I am greatly delighted about, and the statements by the member for West Swan that this project has been pushed back to 2017. Is this in fact correct?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

I had a great deal of pleasure being at a sod turning at the Malaga interchange, something that we have shared for ages that we were about to start. I can categorically confirm that the member for West Swan was wrong in her communications. We can only speculate why she would release blatantly incorrect information to the community she apparently represents. I have here what she put out to her constituents. She said the project appears to have been pushed back to 2017. This project is a great project and we are committed to it. It is one of the serious blackspots in Western Australia. It is a bit like the Roe Highway–Berkshire Road interchange. We got accused for a long time of not getting on with Roe and Berkshire because we did not put in a set of lights. We put in a full grade separation and full interchange, and separate the traffic. That is exactly what is happening at the Malaga interchange. The work has started and I can confirm that it will be finished in early 2016, so it will not be 2017. The member for West Swan can come to an opening in 2017, but she might be on her own because traffic will already be running on it. I am not sure what she was on about. Another thing she claimed in this newsletter to constituents was that we have blown the boom. The member clearly does not think that we should have been upgrading Gnangara Road and duplicating it. The member clearly does not understand. It did not get a mention in the newsletter. The work that we did with the City of Swan on Lord Street, the set of lights on Reid Highway, is a great project, but again, the member fails to recognise the work that has actually gone on. We talk about traffic congestion. The NorthLink project will run a freeway system up the side of Ellenbrook all the way to Muchea. It will take pressure off West Swan Road, Great Northern Highway, Lord Street and Beechboro Road because traffic will be shifted down through the avenue. What else could be better for the people of West Swan and the constituents of the member for Morley? There is a good local member who stands up for his electorate, who fights for things and makes a difference. It is a shame that the member for West Swan could not do that.

Ms R. Saffioti: Please, that was so harsh!