

CFMEU DEAL

351. Mrs C.L. EDWARDES to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

I ask a supplementary question. Will the minister guarantee that the new CFMEU deal will not cause either a further blow-out in the Government's official estimate of the project, including cost escalations; or a further delay in the project's completion date beyond December 2007?

The SPEAKER: Order! The first part of the question is all the minister is required to answer.

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

There is no cost blow-out. We have said that time and time again.

Mr M.W. Trenorden: Yes there is.

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: We have got the Maxi-meter! There is no cost blow-out. There is \$168 million worth of escalation. I very much like the member for Carine, but she has yet to grasp the fact that when we provide a consumer price index figure - that is, we provide a figure in 2006 that is the same as the 1998 figure, except that we have allowed for inflation - that is not a cost blow-out but is in real money terms the same amount of money. That is a concept that I think some members of the Opposition are struggling with. In summary, there is no cost blow-out. We have no reason to believe, for the reasons that I have quite cogently set out previously, to think that the CFMEU arrangement will lead to any additional increase.