

BERKSHIRE ROAD–ROE HIGHWAY INTERSECTION

235. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Transport:

I note the recent surge in interest from the ALP member for Forrestfield about the intersection of Berkshire Road and Roe Highway. Can the minister please advise the house of the status of this intersection and the accuracy of the opposition's commentary?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:

Yes, I can. I thank the member for Swan Hills for asking that very interesting question. The ALP is suddenly very interested in that intersection, and rightly so; it is a dangerous intersection. It is an offset T-junction with a set of lights on one side and a Stop sign on the other side. I noticed that the Leader of the Opposition was out there the other week. He was that excited, he produced a press release about it.

Mr A.J. Waddell: You found that, did you?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Yes, but, funnily enough, there is no mention in that press release that one cent will be funded towards it. I think the Leader of the Opposition had better understand this because he is out there saying that it will be funded to the amount of \$14 million. He said that if Labor is elected, it will incorporate this intersection into the Gateway WA project. The problem with that is that the Gateway project is funded and all that money is allocated. The opposition cannot just get a \$15 million project, stick it onto another big project and say that it will pay for it out of the bigger project because it has some loose change lying around. The opposition is going to have to do a bit better than that. The second thing the Leader of the Opposition said is this —

“It is a logical extension ... and would make sense to include the intersection as one of the projects, as it would make the cost of works significantly cheaper.

How? It is realigning an offset intersection and putting in traffic lights. How does incorporating it into a project that has no money for it make it any cheaper? There is not one shred of engineering advice to suggest that that statement is correct.

I am sincerely sorry that the Member for Forrestfield's motor vehicle has been damaged three times. I think that is a serious issue. If an MP badges up his car, he should not expect someone to break the window or try to vandalise it. I am not being critical of that at all—well, I am being critical, but I am not reflecting poorly on the member. A decal on the member for Forrestfield's car says “Andrew Waddell, member for Forrestfield—getting things done”. It is false advertising! What has the member done?

Mr A.J. Waddell: What have you done? You have done nothing for Forrestfield for three and a half years. Zero. Absolutely nothing. You're a joke. We know you're a joke and that's why Morton's going down!

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: The member for Forrestfield is getting things done? I am not sure that will fly with the residents and certainly not with the shire with which he has not met yet.

Mr A.J. Waddell: Again, another lie. You're such a liar!

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Member for Forrestfield —

Mr A.J. WADDELL: I withdraw it, despite the fact that yesterday it was clearly in *Hansard* and he is now misleading this house.

The SPEAKER: Member for Forrestfield, you certainly recognised that you needed to make a withdrawal, and you have done that. I do not think there is any need for you to add any further commentary to that, although I understand your emotion about this. Minister for Transport, I have said to two other members previously in this place today, if you are going to reflect upon members personally, you might expect something to come back. At this point, Minister for Transport, I formally call you to order for the first time today.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Getting back to the likely cause of the action—the burst of activity—I think it has to do with our very good candidate in that area, Mr Nathan Morton. He is a fantastic person.

Mr A.J. Waddell: Why don't you talk about the lies he tells people? Why don't you talk about the fact that he claims he is a local when he teaches in Armadale? Why don't you talk about his lying about his marital status?

The SPEAKER: Member for Forrestfield, I do not know whether you were referred to in that respect, but I formally call you to order for the second time today.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I have been out there with the candidate, Nathan Morton. He has been on the front page of the local paper a few times talking about this issue.

Mr W.J. Johnston: He's the guy who lost the last election.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: What was that, member for Cannington—he lost the election? What about you? What about your role in the last election? Every now and then I still thank you, member for Cannington!

The other thing Mr Nathan Morton has done is letterbox-drop the entire electorate talking about Roe Highway and Berkshire Road. What happened after that? The Leader of the Opposition visited the area and at long last the member for Forrestfield corresponded with his constituents about it in his letter, which I have here and will quickly talk about.

Mr A.J. Waddell: We were on the front page last year on the same topic. You can't help but mislead this place, can you? You're a sleaze!

Withdrawal of Remarks

The SPEAKER: Member for Forrestfield, I ask you to withdraw that comment as well.

Mr A.J. WADDELL: I withdraw.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I heard the Premier say exactly the same thing of the member for Forrestfield.

The SPEAKER: I did not hear that, but I ask the Premier, if indeed he did say that, to withdraw that comment.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I think I made a general comment about sleaze, but I withdraw.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I am not reflecting on anyone; I am simply reading from the letter, which says that to date, the member for Forrestfield has been frustrated in his attempts to get the state government to move on the issue. He has written to me once. In that letter, he says that he wants to know what plans I have for this very important issue to redevelop and redesign this intersection over the next 30 years. The member's number one priority has a 30-year time frame!

Mr C.C. Porter interjected.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Getting things done slowly.

Secondly, he goes on to say in the letter of 10 May 2012 —

Mark immediately saw the problem and agreed with me that the upgrade will be a priority ...

It is not funded. How big a priority is it if there is not one cent for it? Finally, the member for Forrestfield said that the government is ignoring congestion everywhere except in the CBD. When the member drives through the member for Belmont's electorate, he will notice \$325 million being spent widening Great Eastern Highway. If he goes the other way down Roe Highway, he will notice \$112 million being spent on the grade-separating interchange between Roe Highway and Great Eastern Highway, and pretty soon when the member for Forrestfield drives to the city with all those other people from Forrestfield, he will see \$1 billion being spent on the upgrade and the Gateway project. When the police are looking for the culprit who put the hole in the member's window, tell them to look for the guy walking around Forrestfield dressed as Han Solo looking for Princess Leia!