

REGIONAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

313. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$2 billion investment in regional roads, including significant funding for Bunbury Outer Ring Road that my community has long been calling for. Can the minister outline to the house what this massive investment in job-creating road infrastructure means for those in regional Western Australia?

The SPEAKER: Minister.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Dawesville, you are on your third call, so you might be going home early today.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Bunbury for the question and for his advocacy for this project, as well as the member for Murray–Wellington and the member for Collie–Preston. As soon as we won the election, they were through my door, wanting this project and that is why we make sure we went to the federal government to secure funds for it. What does it mean? Of course, it means more jobs for regional Western Australia with a major investment in the south west.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, thank you.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It means better freight connectivity and better results for commuters in the area. This is just part of the package of road programs we are delivering through regional Western Australia—a record spend. I was interested to hear the member for Moore's comments about how members opposite prioritised projects. Remember that it was a Labor government that invested \$7 million into Indian Ocean Drive last year and it is a Labor government that is putting another \$20 million into that project in this budget. Remember that the current members of the opposition were here for eight and a half years; why did they prioritise Perth Freight Link over Indian Ocean Drive, member for Moore? Why did they prioritise spending on Elizabeth Quay over fixing Indian Ocean Drive, member for Moore? Why did they do that? It has taken a Labor government to come and invest in regional road projects.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Are you finished, member for Bateman? He is a very good orator, but I call you to order for the second time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: If the member for Moore wants to make those points, I will make those points back. The fact is that the Labor government is investing in Indian Ocean Drive although members opposite let it be as unsafe as it was!

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Moore!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Members opposite sat back and let it be as unsafe as it was.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Moore, you have asked your question—no, you did not ask the question, sorry.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No, he did not ask the question, but I am referring back.

The SPEAKER: Listen to the answer anyway!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: There are regional road projects through the great southern region, through Collie and the south west, the midwest, the goldfields —

Mr V.A. Catania: Where in the midwest?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Read the budget papers.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I know that your wins are not very often, but just celebrate it quietly.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Do members know what I like about budget day? It is when we go to the afternoon tearoom on budget day and watch members of the opposition just wandering around having cups of tea. They never read the budget papers! I remember when we were in opposition, we picked up the budget papers to scour them. They walk in and ask the most inane questions. There are enormous projects. I hope all members opposite come to

budget estimates next week because I will sit here and go through all the regional road projects line by line. There is a record investment in maintenance expenditure and a record investment in —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr I.C. Blayney: I think it's a record!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I think it is. We fixed up the roundabout that the member for Geraldton could not get fixed for eight and a half years! Again, it took a Labor government to fix the Hodgkins Drive roundabout in addition to the massive investment made in hospitals. I will go through all the electorates and all the regional towns regarding the record regional investments made in roads because the previous government ignored roads in the regions.