

SMART FREEWAYS INITIATIVE — MINISTER'S COMMENTS

583. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Transport:

I have a supplementary question. As with most major projects that the minister has responsibility for, both the budget and time frame for the smart freeway project has clearly blown out. Why is the minister so incapable of delivering projects on time and on budget?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I am sure the minister can answer this on her own.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

When members go around Western Australia at the moment, what do they see? They see construction. They see works happening. They see people employed.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, you had a question and you had a supplementary. I call you to order for the first time.

Ms L. Mettam: Bayswater!

The SPEAKER: Now I call you to order for the second time. Is there something on in Vasse tonight?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am glad that the member for Vasse yelled out “Bayswater”. Let us go through Bayswater station. When the Liberal government committed \$1.9 billion to the Forrestfield–Airport Link, how much did it allocate to improving Bayswater station? It allocated a few million dollars? It was going to let —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Member for Vasse, listen and learn! The Liberal government was going to leave a 1960s station there with inadequate disability access and a bridge that basically every truck got stuck under. That was what it was going to do.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Vasse talks and talks and talks and talks. She talks and talks and talks.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I call you to order for the third time. Member for Darling Range, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member talks and talks and talks like she did in government. The Liberal government was going to build the Thornlie–Cockburn link, was it not? It never did anything. It never actually did anything when it was in government.

Mrs A.K. Hayden interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Darling Range, I call you to order for the second time. That is not even your question.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: What was that, member for Darling Range? The successful small-businesswoman from Kalamunda! Where was that small business, member for Darling Range? Where was it? Where was that successful small business in Kalamunda, member for Darling Range?

Mrs A.K. Hayden: You know nothing.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No, come on. You wanted to interject.

The SPEAKER: Member for Darling Range, I call you to order for the third time.

Mrs A.K. Hayden: She asked!

The SPEAKER: It does not matter! You do not interject. You give it out, but you do not like it to come back.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I will let her tell me where that successful small business was in Kalamunda.

Point of Order

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Mr Speaker, the minister cannot continue to bait a member on this side who you then call to order. I ask you to return the minister to her question.

The SPEAKER: Let me just put this point to the member. I have been in this chamber for 20 years. When an opposition member attacks someone in the government and the government member gets up to have a go back, the opposition cannot say, “Oh, no; you can’t do that!” Members cannot interject when someone is on their feet. It does not matter who you are.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Can the member for Darling Range let us know where the successful small business was in Kalamunda? The member for Darling Range has said there was no successful small business in Kalamunda. Is that what the member for Darling Range put on her form when she ran for Mayor of Kalamunda?

The SPEAKER: Minister, through the Chair. No, the Chair is this way, minister. Through the Chair.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Sorry, Mr Speaker. When you go through Western Australia, as we often do —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: You are on three calls, member for Darling Range.

A member: Member for Vasse.

The SPEAKER: Sorry. Member for Vasse, you are on three calls so it is a toss-up on who wants to go home early. We need a little bit of discipline here. Let the minister finish and we will get on with question time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: All that negativity just rolls around. Where are the opposition's policies? Today we learnt that the opposition is taking our commitments and claiming them as its own. Yesterday, it took our policy on planning reform and did a fundraising breakfast to promote our planning reform bill. It was a bill that the Liberal Party said was corrupt. Again, where are the opposition's policies? They are nowhere. The opposition is a ball of negativity. It is knocking, knocking and knocking while we are out there creating jobs and delivering projects that it could not dream of delivering.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — FUNDING

584. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion recovery plan, which includes a comprehensive package to support victims of family and domestic violence.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what this government's \$28 million package will mean for those who are experiencing and/or fleeing family and domestic violence?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this funding package will build on the government's unprecedented record of supporting victims and, in particular, its investment in women and children's shelters?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I thank the member for the question and for her interest in the safety of women and children in her electorate and the broader Western Australian community. I know the Premier has made the point a couple of times that when we talk about this recovery package of over \$5.5 billion in spending, the figure can just roll off the tongue, but the actual supports on the ground for the people who need them are significant. This commitment of \$28 million, which includes \$5 million in federal funding, is a significant contribution to the particular needs of those experiencing domestic violence during the COVID-19 period. We know that more domestic violence is being experienced. We already had high levels, but particularly since the COVID-19 period started in February and March and onwards, there have been more family-related assaults and threatening behaviour being experienced and being reported to police.

- (1) I want to go through the details of what the recovery package will mean for victims of domestic violence because it is important that people understand it. Out of the \$23 million in new funding from the government, \$8.6 million will help to employ 23 additional outreach workers across the state. That is 23 additional workers who will be lodged with women's services who will be able to be deployed in refuges to support women and children experiencing domestic violence in their local communities. In addition, an extra 17 family and domestic violence response teams will get extra community-based resources with those co-located response teams. At a price tag of \$6.7 million, there will be 17 additional staff in those co-located response teams. That is, again, actual resources, new resources, 17 extra people who will be based around in those co-response teams around the state. In addition, over \$100 000 will be allocated to a job retraining program that will be made available for women in refuges in the metropolitan area. Of course, they also have access to free and discounted TAFE courses, which has been announced as part of the recovery program. Also, \$1.1 million over two years will be made available for counselling, advocacy and support services.
- (2) The member asked specifically about refuges. She and the Parliament would be aware that we are building two new refuges: one in Peel and one in Kwinana. The Premier, the member and I were at the Peel build to make this announcement a few weeks ago, with Anne Moore from Lucy Saw Refuge and the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services. That additional money for those refuges will effectively double the capacity of those two new refuges. That is a significant investment in crisis support. Of course, the Peel refuge will be a therapeutic refuge, the first of its type in this state.

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Ms Libby Mettam; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Zak Kirkup; Speaker; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Simone McGurk

All in all, with this new spending and our existing commitments, we will have invested over \$76 million in new funding to tackle domestic violence. Of course, that is on top of significant law reform through the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill. Just yesterday, with the Minister for Corrective Services, we were able to announce the commencement of a trial—\$15.5 million for 100 new electronic monitoring devices that will be available for courts to put as a condition if perpetrators breach family restraining orders and commit further acts of violence. That is the actual devices as well as community corrections staff and police to respond to any of those breaches. This is a significant investment by this government. We are taking this issue seriously. The extent of domestic violence in our state will not be tolerated. The people of Western Australia, the women and children of Western Australia—we have their backs.