

HIGH STREET–STIRLING HIGHWAY INTERSECTION — UPGRADE

111. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the highly congested High Street–Stirling Highway intersection that the McGowan Labor government is fixing, something the previous Liberal–National government failed to do in eight and a half years. Can the minister outline to the house how the High Street upgrade will improve safety —

Mr J.E. McGrath interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for South Perth, you will be crying in a minute.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, please! Start again.

Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I will. I refer to the highly congested High Street–Stirling Highway intersection that the McGowan Labor government is fixing.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY: Do you want me to start again?

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman, do you want us to start the question again? Start again.

Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY: I refer to the highly congested High Street–Stirling Highway intersection that the McGowan Labor government is fixing, something the previous Liberal–National government failed to do in eight and a half years.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the High Street upgrade will improve safety for truck drivers and relieve congestion for drivers?
- (2) How will this project support Western Australian jobs?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Bicton for that question. Before I answer that, I would like to welcome the land agency professionals from Argentina and Paraguay who are watching question time. I will now proceed to answer in Spanish. Only kidding!

- (1)–(2) Last week, together with the City of Fremantle, we released the draft concept plan for the upgrade of High Street in Fremantle, a project we committed to and will deliver with our good friends from the federal government. This project will see High Street between Stirling Highway and Carrington Street widened, with a new median strip. A new roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of High Street and Stirling Highway. There will be a new local access road and improved parking arrangements for all those who play netball in that district. It will create up to 700 jobs, because WA jobs are our number one priority, as we all know.

I was surprised to see the reaction of the member for Scarborough and her colleagues on that side when we announced that project. It is a group walking around like members of a deposed monarchy who still do not realise that they lost the 2017 election and that the world has changed. Its unhealthy obsession with Perth Freight Link continues.

Mr D.C. Nalder: This is part of it.

The SPEAKER: Member!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Bateman's interjection is interesting—that this is part of it. The opposition does not seem to remember that this project was committed to in its 2009–10 budget. The member for Scarborough said that we have plucked this project out of thin air and that we did not know where this project came from. It was a project the opposition committed to in 2009–10, which it did not deliver in eight and a half years. The member for Scarborough then went on to say that the Perth Freight Link project was wrongly perceived to be all about trucks and that the project the Liberal government called the Perth Freight Link was wrongly perceived to be about freight. I do not know where people could have got the idea that this project was about freight! I do not know where they could have got that idea! The member for Scarborough said that we could just tunnel to stage 3—from Stirling Highway to the port. The member for Bateman knows what is coming next. She said that we could just tunnel it. She went on radio and said, "Ms Saffioti, tunnel—keep tunnelling!" This appears to go against all —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Not from Stirling! Don't misquote me.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: This appears to go against —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I have been in this house for 17 years. When you are in opposition —

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: I will just jot you down twice.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call you for the third time, member for Scarborough.

What happens in this house is that when you are in opposition and ask a question, you might not get the answer you like, but that is the answer that comes. I am sure that if you ask most of the members on this side of the house, the same thing happened to them over there. This opposition does not seem to like to get told something they do not agree with. Anyway, that is my point of view.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: This is the member for Scarborough's opinion piece in which she talked about tunnelling.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Bateman for the first time. If you want to query me on a point of order, you know the proper process.

Point of Order

Mr D.C. NALDER: Mr Speaker, could you please clarify what standing order you are making your statement and your point of view on, please?

The SPEAKER: I am responsible for order in the house and I will make a decision on that.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Are your views not supposed to relate to the standing orders of the house?

Several members interjected.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Mr Speaker, I am allowed to make a point of order in silence.

The SPEAKER: Are you questioning my judgement? Because you have a way to do that.

Mr D.C. Nalder: Are you wanting me to respond?

The SPEAKER: No. You cannot talk when I am on my feet. You are very close to being named. That is very serious. I have never done it and I have never wanted to. Unless you sit down and calm down, I will name you.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Mr Speaker, I am seeking clarification under which standing orders you are making these rulings. I believe that it is my right as a member of Parliament to be heard on a point of order in silence. All I am seeking is an understanding of the standing orders that you are relating to.

The SPEAKER: Standing order 83.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: This all goes back to the member for Scarborough saying that she did not say these things. She wrote an opinion piece—unless the member for Scarborough might not have actually written the opinion piece; I do not know. She went on to say to tunnel. Hon Colin Barnett said that we would not tunnel under the Swan River because it was extremely deep and not feasible. The member for Bateman said that the gradient to get back to the other side meant that a tunnel would have to extend all the way to Leighton Beach and then head back. It is simply not feasible. The member for Scarborough's government knew that, yet she went on radio and talked about it. The member went on to talk about the project being a blowout. She tweeted that it was another massive election blowout, saying that our project now cost \$118 million when we had said \$64 million. Here is a lesson in economics: the \$64 million was our state contribution to the project. Do members know how much we are contributing now? We are contributing \$44 million. It is a saving; it is actually not a blowout because our good friends from the commonwealth are joining with us on this project.

My last and most important point is that when she wrote in the paper that our decision not to build the Perth Freight Link would be played out —

The SPEAKER: Member, you will call the member by the correct title.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Scarborough said that our decision not to build the Perth Freight Link would be played out in the emergency rooms of our hospitals. What sort of sick and pathetic mind wants car accidents? What sort of sick, pathetic and sad mind is wishing car accidents on our streets? That is what the member for Scarborough is doing. That is disgraceful!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Wind it up, minister.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Scarborough, who used road safety money to fund a rugby union team, is lecturing us about road safety! It would be like saying that every car accident between Morley and Ellenbrook is due to the Liberal Party because it did not fund the Ellenbrook rail line. That is the pathetic nature of the member for Scarborough's comments.

The Liberal opposition seems to want to rerun the 2017 election day after day after day. We say, "Bring it on!" We will fight it on these issues every day of this term up to the next election.