

HIGH STREET, FREMANTLE — UPGRADE

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in congestion-busting, job-creating road projects.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what the upgrade to High Street will mean for motorists, as well as outline how this project has supported local jobs and local businesses?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on the other transport projects that the state government is delivering instead of the failed uneconomical Perth Freight Link project?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Bicton for that question.

- (1)–(2) On Monday, the Premier and I were joined by the member for Bicton, the member for Fremantle and Senator Ben Small, another representative from the federal government, which is partnering with us to deliver much needed infrastructure around the state. We learnt a lot about Ben Small that day. We learnt that he received a youth leadership award from the Premier when he was a bit younger.

**Mr M. McGowan:** I gave him an award?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The Premier gave him a youth leadership award.

As we know, the senator also operated a small bar, which was only facilitated because of the work done by the Premier when he was the Minister for Racing and Gaming; and, of course, it was this Parliament that elected him to the Senate. Senator Ben Small was there and he was very keen to be at the opening of yet another project delivered by this government, which was the new High Street interchange. Do the members for Fremantle and Bicton remember what it was like before? It was congested and unsafe.

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the Liberal Party!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I can hear something but I am not sure what it is. In relation to the High Street project, we all knew what it looked like before. Of course, there were some very significant safety concerns, particularly for all those who play netball in that area because they had to run across High Street to get access to the netball courts. As part of the project, a new roundabout will make it safer and easier for trucks and cars to navigate in that area. New parking is being developed for the netball courts and there are also two underpasses for the local community. There are some very significant noise walls, too. If members want to see a lot of noise walls, they should head down that way. I know there has been a bit of discussion about the colour and type, but they help to protect the community from the noise and they are something that the community was very keen on. Actually, I have come to realise that most communities are very keen on noise walls. This project created a lot of jobs. Five hundred jobs were created as a result of the upgrade to High Street and we delivered the project as a result of the cancellation of the Perth Freight Link and the redirection of funds. Remember, we redirected those funds to about 17 road projects, all of which are now finished. They include the High Street upgrade; the Murdoch Drive connection; the widening of Kwinana Freeway northbound; the Armadale Road to North Lake Road bridge; the Karel Avenue upgrades; the Kwinana Smart Freeway; the Roe Highway–Kalamunda Road interchange; the widening of Mitchell Freeway southbound from Cedric Street to Vincent Street; the Reid Highway carriageway from Altone Road to West Swan Road; the Wanneroo Road–Joondalup Drive interchange; the Wanneroo Road–Ocean Reef Road interchange; and the Wanneroo Road dual carriageway. All those projects are completed. Of course, as part of that redirection, funds were also allocated to some of our Metronet projects.

At the time, the opposition said that we would not get this done—we would not be able to redirect those funds. But we did and those projects are completed. Of course, we know that the opposition, in particular the National Party, does not like the metropolitan area, but they are trying to reinvent themselves. The Leader of the Opposition has said —

“I want to see our whole state develop and quite often we're criticised for being divisive in the way that we approach our messaging and our policies,” ...

No way! No way! The opposition criticises everything that we do in the metropolitan area and it is worried now that it is being seen as divisive and hating the metropolitan area! There are also comments that we have a metropolitan branch of the National Party. That would be an interesting branch to go to.

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Close to their members. Obviously, with a whole state electorate in the upper house at the next state election, that is one thing we will have to consider.

Maybe the Nationals should remove their bumper stickers that are attacking Metronet and support infrastructure that creates jobs and improves the liveability and amenity wherever it is in Western Australia. That is what this government is about—delivering record infrastructure throughout the entire state.

