

GASCOYNE RIVER BRIDGE

Statement by Member for Ningaloo

MR SWEETMAN (Ningaloo) [12.57 pm]: I acknowledge the efforts of the Government in bringing forward the replacement program for the Gascoyne River Bridge. Immediately after the flooding earlier this year in the Gascoyne area, I approached various ministers to try to expedite the time frame for putting in the Lyndon River crossing on the Minilya-Exmouth Road and the Gascoyne River Bridge.

I was heartened recently following a cabinet meeting in my electorate that the Government announced that the program for the replacement of the bridge was brought forward from 2003-04 to go to tender immediately after Christmas. Construction will start around the middle of next year. The Government and the Minister for Transport must be acknowledged for their efforts in facilitating this development. Main Roads WA supported my approaches and helped me further develop my submission on the project. I particularly acknowledge Mr John Ursich, who is an engineer of the Gascoyne division of Main Roads, for his untiring efforts in making the submission, and his consultations with me in bringing this worthwhile project to fruition.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 to 2.00 pm