

BEELIAR WETLANDS — ROE 8

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to permanently protect the Beeliar wetlands, which was delivered last week with the passing of the Metropolitan Region Scheme (Beeliar Wetlands) Bill 2021.

- (1) Can the minister remind the house how this government came to the decision to stop the destructive Roe 8 project and protect the wetlands?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on the work that is underway to deliver a long-term responsible solution to getting trucks off local roads in the southern suburbs?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Bicton for that question and, of course, for her work over many years to help to deliver this commitment. It was with great pride last week that we finally delivered the commitment that we gave to the people—that is, to save the Beeliar wetlands for future generations. Members will remember that we took that policy commitment to the 2017 election and, of course, the Liberal and National Parties frustrated it in the other place. We again took that policy to the 2021 election. I will refer to some of the comments and the attitudes of the Liberal and National Parties in a minute. What we have been able to do is to change the reservation from roads to parks and recreation and to extend the A-class reserve boundary to include the Beeliar wetlands.

This has been a fight over many decades, and people have been working very hard year in, year out to deliver it. I thank my parliamentary colleagues the member for Fremantle, the member for Bicton and the member for Willagee. I also thank the federal member for Fremantle, Josh Wilson, for all his work, too. I acknowledge all the work done by the general community and also some community leaders, in particular Kim Dravnieks, and Kate Kelly from the Save Beeliar Wetlands group. I acknowledge all the work they did over many years.

We have extended the A-class reserve. We are deleting the Roe 8 corridor. We are also building new infrastructure under the stewardship of the Minister for Environment—extended boardwalks and more infrastructure so more people can appreciate these beautiful wetlands. We are doing that and, at the same time, we are delivering the broader commitments of moving more freight onto rail, improving the roads leading to Fremantle, such as High Street, and developing intermodals. All those commitments are being delivered.

What is the attitude of the Liberal and National Parties? They still want to build Roe 8–Roe 9. We would think the Nationals WA would be more concerned about regional roads, but their commitment has always been to the Perth Freight Link. It is the only road project that I have heard their members talk about. In the other house, Hon Nick Goiran and his new apprentice, Neil Thomson, are talking about these projects. Nick Goiran —

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: The minister should refer to members by their full title.

The SPEAKER: That is correct —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Sorry; I am giving a ruling. If you refer to a member in another place, you need to refer to them appropriately.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Sorry about that. They are Hon Nick Goiran and Hon Neil Thomson.

Hon Nick Goiran led the Liberal Party from a record, I think, six seats in the South Metropolitan Region to zero seats. “Honey, I shrunk the Liberal Party”—that is a description of Hon Nick Goiran! He shrunk the Liberal Party into oblivion and now he is still in the other place insulting our commitment and the people of Western Australia who have voted on this issue twice.

Let us look at that whole corridor. The member for Riverton, member for Jandakot, member for Bateman and member for Bicton all fought on this issue. Again, we delivered on the overwhelming response that people wanted to save Beeliar wetlands and an alternative freight and trade plan for Western Australia.