

INDIAN OCEAN DRIVE, LANCELIN-CERVANTES, CONSTRUCTION

1054. Mr McNee to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

- (1) I refer to the answer to question on notice No.106 and ask will the Minister advise why she stated at the Mid West Economic Summit held in Geraldton recently that ‘the Labor Government has different priorities to the previous Government and Indian Ocean Drive is not one of them’?
- (2) It is not likely to be included in the budget which will be presented in September?
- (3) Will the Minister advise what the Government’s priorities are in regard to transport in Western Australia?
- (4) Will the Minister advise why, given the very real concerns of the tourism industry regarding delays to the development of this road, and the proposed investment plans made subject to the completion of the road by 2003, this project has been delayed by two years when financing to the tune of \$1.35 million towards the cost of the road will be lost if the project does not proceed on time?

Ms MacTIERNAN replied:

- (1)-(4) The construction of Indian Ocean Drive between Lancelin and Cervantes remains an important project. However, as the Member would be aware, when the Labor Government came to frame its first Budget, we found that a number of projects had been left unfunded by the previous Government. One of these projects was the rail component of the Geraldton Southern Transport Corridor.

As a result of this situation, together with a reduction in projected revenue, some projects simply had to be deferred in order to bring others forward.

Main Roads is continuing to work to ensure that construction of the road between Lancelin and Cervantes can proceed at the earliest possible date. The project is currently being assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority and subject to environmental approval and land excision, construction is expected to commence in 2003/04 and to be completed in 2005/06.