

**MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT — ROE HIGHWAY STAGE 8 AND PERTH FREIGHT LINK**

*Standing Orders Suspension — Motion*

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition)** [2.45 pm] — without notice: I move —

That standing orders be suspended so far as to enable the following motion to be moved forthwith —

That this house condemns the Minister for Transport for —

- (1) failing to read a controversial \$340 million major road contract before it was signed;
- (2) not knowing that the contract was being signed until after the fact;
- (3) refusing to meet with the affected residents of Palmyra whose homes are under threat over the new revised Perth Freight Link plan; and
- (4) failing to commit to releasing the contract.

This is a matter of some urgency.

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** We will hear why it is a matter of urgency, thank you.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It is a matter of some urgency, Mr Speaker, and it deserves some consideration by the house. It would be fair to say that we were critical of the former transport minister, the member for Alfred Cove, but his performances in this house were light years ahead of those of the current Minister for Transport. We saw that at question time—all members here saw it—in which the minister of now some three weeks' standing could not answer the most basic of questions, some of which I think a 12-year-old, if he had been briefed on this contract, could have answered. The fact that the minister could not answer the most basic of questions about this highly controversial and important issue for Western Australia deserves the time of this house so we can try to get some answers about those issues, so the minister can explain himself and, I suppose, so the opposition can condemn the performance of the government on these issues.

Why is this issue urgent? This morning I went to Palmyra and I met with a family whose life has been thrown into turmoil for a number of years now.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough. Carry on, Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I want to know —

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. Premier, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I seek an indication from the Leader of the House.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** Twenty minutes.

*Standing Orders Suspension — Amendment to Motion*

**MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Leader of the House)** [2.48 pm]: There is no way the government will support the substantive motion that the Leader of the Opposition has foreshadowed and we do not accept that there is the degree of urgency that has been suggested; however, so that we do not waste further time of the house we will agree to 20 minutes for each side and five minutes for the Independent member if he wishes to speak. I move —

To insert after “contract” —

; subject to the debate being limited to 20 minutes for government members, 20 minutes for non-government members and five minutes for Independent members.

Amendment put and passed.

*Standing Orders Suspension — Motion, as Amended*

**The SPEAKER:** Members, as this is a motion without notice to suspend standing orders, it will need the support of an absolute majority for it to proceed. If I hear a dissentient voice, I will be required to divide the Assembly.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr John Day; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Bill Marmion; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Simone McGurk

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*Motion*

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition)** [2.49 pm]: I move the motion. This morning I went to Palmyra and met with the residents of a street known as Moody Glen. Two of those residents, Tania and Damon Smirke, were there, as were a number of other residents, and their homes are now once again under threat.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Did you tell them that?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** You will get your chance. Grumpy will get his chance.

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Premier, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Premier is out of control. Yesterday, he called members of this place deranged. He is out of control.

I went to Palmyra and I met with those affected residents. Those people's lives are now on hold again. We know, because of the former iteration of the Perth Freight Link, that that will mean that around 70 properties are now liable to be demolished. Some of those properties include the homes of people like Tania and Damon Smirke, who have children and who have renovated their home. There are streets full of people who deserve some certainty in their lives.

What did we hear from the Minister for Transport today? When I asked the Minister for Transport whether he would meet those people, his exact words were, "There's no point." He does not have the courage to even go down there and talk to them.

**Mr W.R. Marmion** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** In such circumstances the minister should go and talk to the residents, confront the issue and hear their concerns. He should not treat them with contempt in this Parliament as he did today. He has treated those families with utter and complete contempt on an important issue in their lives. They have been through years of this from this government. The only way they found out in the first place was in an obscure letter sent to them a couple of years ago, which had a paragraph at the bottom that said, "By the way your house might be knocked over." Most of the residents did not even read the whole letter, but there it was at the bottom.

It is there again now, because the minister said today that he is considering not one or four options, but 22 options. The government now has 22 options up for consideration on how Roe 8 might extend in the direction of—not to—Fremantle port. It will not actually get to the port, but there are 22 options to get it near the port. One of the options of course, which I suspect is the favoured option—considering the government is building a \$110 million interchange that will be redundant if it does not follow this route—is to go up Stock Road and down Leach Highway and to resume all those properties. That would be the favoured option.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** The MacTiernan plan.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Is the Premier seriously going to continue with his madness today?

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Today we heard the minister say that there is no point meeting those people. I tell the minister that there is a point. He should get himself there quick smart tomorrow, meet those people and hear their concerns and walk through their houses, as members of the opposition and I have done. He should talk to those people and hear their concerns before he dismisses them as blithely as he did in question time moments ago.

As we heard in question time, it gets worse. Frankly, I was absolutely amazed, as I suspect all members of this house would have been, that the minister did not know, was not informed, and admitted as such, that the contract was signed yesterday. He did not know until after the event. That is what he told the house.

**Mr W.R. Marmion** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is what he said to the house.

**Mr W.R. Marmion:** Yes, I was.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** He was not informed that the contract for \$340 million was being signed. That was his answer. He does not know. The problem with the minister is that he is not across the detail and he is not capable of getting across the detail. Then he comes up with answers like that, in which he admits to the house—check

**Extract from *Hansard***

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 12 October 2016]

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Mr Mark McGowan; Mr John Day; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Bill Marmion; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Simone McGurk

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*Hansard*—that he did not know the contract was being signed yesterday. This is a contract for the most controversial road project in Western Australia, a project that could result in the demolition of 70 Western Australians' properties, a project that will throw away, on current levels, \$550 million of state money. He did not know it was being signed yesterday, and he is only the minister! My God!

**Mr W.R. Marmion:** Yes, I did.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** What sort of state is the Western Australian government in today when the minister does not know a contract is being signed? That is what he said.

**Mr W.R. Marmion:** No, I didn't.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** He is saying, "No, I didn't."

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Everybody is going to get a chance.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** He is a nice enough fellow, but he does not know detail, is not capable of getting across the detail, and when he is asked questions, he cannot formulate his thoughts to express them clearly. Government members know it and that is why they are really—I do not like saying this—absolutely shocked that he is now in this position of Minister for Transport. The public of Western Australia should be absolutely shocked that someone with that level of control of their agency is now in that position. He did not know the contract was being signed and said there was no point meeting the residents. They are two things we learnt in question time.

The third thing we learnt in question time is that the minister did not read the contract. He said that because it has been around for that period of time, why read it? There have been so many iterations of this contract.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** No, there hasn't.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Yes, there has.

**Mr W.R. Marmion** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** There has been Roe 8 plus going up Stock Road and Leach Highway. There has been Roe 8 plus a tunnel. Now we are back to Roe 8 plus 22 other options. It is important that the minister gets across the detail.

**Mr M.H. Taylor** interjected.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It is important that the minister gets across the detail, because now we have Roe 8 with a \$110 million interchange hanging off the end, which will send traffic north, up Stock Road. How can a tunnel be connected to that? What will be the point of that? All the trucks will exit on the interchange, onto Stock Road and avoid the toll that the government does not know whether it is going to implement. We learnt today that the minister has not read the contract of a project of this magnitude.

The fourth thing we learnt in question time is that the minister has to take advice on whether to release the contract. It is only a contract for \$340 million of taxpayers' money! He does not know whether he is going to release it. We asked the same question yesterday and he has not taken advice since then. Honestly, could he not in his job as Minister for Transport get the answers to those questions so that he can answer to Parliament and therefore the people of Western Australia?

Then we learnt that in relation to the toll—I could quote in detail here because I wrote this one down—he is committed to looking at it. There is a bill in the house, introduced by the government and agreed to in the cabinet and party room that he sits in. Does he sleep during meetings? Is that what happens—he sleeps during meetings? Whether the bill is going to be progressed—it is only a bill of the government and he is the minister—is a matter for consideration. Mr Speaker, seriously! We are going to have a ball with him every question time because we will ask questions about issues in his portfolio and he will have no idea what is going on, and now he has been promoted to a portfolio in which people are taking notice.

The minister has said that he is committed to looking at the toll. There will be a road, which he does not know how it is going to be connected, but he has 22 options. He does not know whether he is going to put a toll on that road. He did not know when the contract for that road was signed, although he has learnt now and he is not committed to meeting with the residents affected. He cannot explain the tender process, despite the significant variation to the original arrangement. It has not been an open tender process.

**Extract from Hansard**

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The government has rushed to sign a contract and did not follow accepted standards in Western Australia—in fact, the whole country—to have an open tender process to ensure that the government would achieve a suitable market price while expending taxpayers' money. They are the seven strikes against this minister in one question time on the most controversial road in Western Australia, certainly in my memory. I suppose the most amazing thing is that the government will build this part of the road but it has no idea what it will do after that. All the people living along the prospective routes in Palmyra will be on tenterhooks about whether the bulldozers will come along and bowl over their homes. The minister thinks that is a plan; he should be embarrassed and ashamed.

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Here is the Premier, arcing up, protecting his boy over there because he knows his boy cannot protect himself. That is why he arcs up. The minister is a nice enough fellow but the Premier and all his colleagues know that he is not up to the job. That is what we learnt in question time today. I do not like saying it; he is a nice enough bloke but he is not up to the job.

**MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier)** [3.00 pm]: What a waste of time this is. However, as the time is allocated, we might as well waste it.

**Mr P. Papalia:** Sit down then.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** No; this is the opposition's bright idea. That was the member's great contribution to the debate today! The first part of the motion states, "failing to read a controversial \$340 million ... contract ...". The contract has basically been in place for 12 months because it was delayed by court action. It has been in place for 12 months; it is an alliance contract—a standard construction contract under an alliance. It has been accepted for the last 12 months.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The decision made by cabinet on Monday was for the signing of the contract to go ahead, which the minister does not do; the head of Main Roads does. That is the process. The Leader of the Opposition knows that—I hope he knows it. I know some members opposite are world experts on term-of-government contracts and the like, but they should do a bit of work on a contract like this because this contract matters.

*Point of Order*

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The Premier is making an unreasonable attack on the member for Nedlands, who took a payout when he was made redundant from the Court government and it is very unfair for the Premier to attack the member for Nedlands like that.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order. Sit down. Member for Cannington, if you make another spurious point of order, I will call you to order.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** It is suggested that we did not know the contract was being signed. It was a cabinet decision that the contract for Roe 8, which had been in place for 12 months, be concluded. It was ready, so they did it that day. Good on them; get on with it. I was aware of it last night and the minister was also aware of it yesterday, so what is the big deal about that?

**Mr M. McGowan:** We didn't know it was being signed.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** That is because the Leader of the Opposition does not agree with it. He has been a minister and has never ever got a major program off the ground in his life. He has never ever got a project going. The Labor government lost the Ichthys project to Darwin. His government has never got a project off the ground.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** What about Oakajee and Browse; where is MAX?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The member for Victoria Park can talk about them and I can talk about 50 projects that I have got off the ground. For someone who has never got a project going in Western Australia, I can understand how the Leader of the Opposition does not understand signing a contract.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Victoria Park, you have been called twice.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The third point is about the residents of Palmyra. What did the Leader of the Opposition do today? I reckon he went out there and scared them. I reckon that is exactly what he would have done because that is the nature of his character—or the nature of his lack of character. He would have gone out there and

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alarmed those people by saying that their house is going to be resumed or whatever. What did the Leader of the Opposition say to them when he went out there? Did he reassure them? No, he did not, did he?

Several members interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** He did not reassure them at all, did he; he went out there and alarmed those innocent people. Do not forget that the Leader of the Opposition wanted to redevelop Subiaco Oval. How many houses would be resumed under that?

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Over 100.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Yes. So there is the sympathetic Leader of the Opposition, who is happy to resume houses in Subiaco.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I can understand how the residents in Palmyra feel after the Leader of the Opposition has gone out there and alarmed them. As we said yesterday, we are building Roe 8. The contract was finalised and in place 12 months ago. We have added to it the Stock Road exchange. It is a variation so there is still some negotiation but it will not be difficult to resolve. That is the decision. Just as Roe 1 to 7 was built, this is Roe 8, plus the inclusion of Stock Road, and, as I and the minister said, there is a significant amount of work to be done on the next stage and the government will make a decision. It will most likely be about a tunnel. Did the Leader of the Opposition tell the people of Palmyra that I said that there would most likely be a tunnel? No, he did not because he went out there to alarm and frighten people. Talk about bullying in the Parliament; it was a totally unconscionable act. The Leader of the Opposition is the sort of person who accuses the Italians of being ethnic branch stackers. That shows the absolute lack of character of the member opposite. He is the sort of person who uses his wife's phone to ring up Brian Burke—lack of character. He is the sort of person who met Noel Crichton-Browne at the Blue Duck in Cottesloe to get dirt on me and says that Noel asked him to do it. Noel said, "No, McGowan asked me." That is the sort of character or lack of character that he has. It is about time the people of Western Australia saw it for what it is—a complete lack of character.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** You bet your bottom dollar we are going to do that. You just wait; you will be on notice, Leader of the Opposition, for your conduct; you are right on notice.

Several members interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I have a lot more to say and we have a few months yet to say it.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I am not playing the man; I am reporting things reported in this Parliament.

**Mr P.B. Watson:** We'll talk about Kevin Prince, don't worry about that.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Kevin Prince? He has not been a member for a fair while.

We have this stupid, wasteful motion. We debated this issue for an hour yesterday; we could have used private members' business this afternoon to debate it.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** You've shut it down; you've cut an hour off it.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** There are a couple of hours; we could have used private members' time.

I will conclude with this: the contract for Roe 8 was finalised about a year ago. Of course, cabinet approves it and Main Roads signs it. What is the opposition's issue with that?

**Mr M. McGowan:** Not knowing it would be signed.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Of course it can be signed. It can be signed 10 seconds after cabinet has approved it. Once cabinet has made the decision and I as Premier have signed off on the decision sheet, the contract is there to be signed. It is just a matter of course. The variation will take a few weeks but that will be straightforward.

The third point was about refusing to meet the residents of Palmyra. The Leader of the Opposition went out there to alarm those people. That is exactly what he did this morning. If some of the residents of Palmyra want to come and see me, I will happily meet with them.

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**Mr R.H. Cook:** You go and see them.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough; thank you! Let us move on.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** If they want to come and see me, I will happily meet with them.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I will treat the residents of Palmyra with respect. I will not alarm them; I will tell them exactly where the government decision-making is and I will remind them that the route that will affect their housing is the Alannah MacTiernan route. It is the route the Leader of the Opposition agreed to when he was a member of cabinet. He was a member of cabinet when it was adopted.

**Ms S.F. McGurk** interjected.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Fremantle, withdraw that, please.

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** Mr Speaker, the Premier was saying something that is blatantly untrue.

**The SPEAKER:** No, no; withdraw that, please. Withdraw that, please. You said “a lie”. Withdraw that, please.

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** The Premier is misleading Parliament.

**The SPEAKER:** No, no. I asked you to withdraw it.

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** I withdraw.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call you to order for the first time.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The route will impact on Palmyra residents, so I can understand why they were upset when they were alarmed this morning. However, history should record that this was a Labor government proposal. It was the Alannah MacTiernan proposal, endorsed by the Leader of the Opposition’s cabinet when he was Leader of the Opposition and several other members opposite were members of the cabinet.

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Was the Leader of the Opposition in cabinet?

**Ms S.F. McGurk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** That was the Labor Party route. It is a matter of public record. This whole issue dates back to when the Labor Party—Alannah MacTiernan—removed the eastern bypass from the metropolitan region scheme, which had been there since the 1960s.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Cannington.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** What a lot of rubbish this motion is. We know members opposite do not like the project. That is a point of difference. That is fine; I can accept that argument but this government has been committed to Roe 8 throughout its eight years in government. We made the decision; it was delayed through various contrivances in the court and the project will get underway in December this year.

**MR W.R. MARMION (Nedlands — Minister for Transport)** [3.08 pm]: I think I will deal directly with these questions one by one. First of all, I obviously oppose this motion because it is directed at me. The first point states —

    failing to read a controversial \$340 million major road contract before it was signed;

The Commissioner of Main Roads signs contracts every day of the week and, with significant contracts, the minister’s role is to approve the Commissioner of Main Roads’ signing the contract. It is not the role of the —

**Ms R. Saffioti:** Did you take it to cabinet?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** Of course I did.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Carry on.

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**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I am trying to gather my thoughts to explain the situation for those people who do not know, or pretend they do not know—they really do know—how the process works. It is quite dangerous if a minister gets too involved in contracts and I will give members an example in a minute. In relation to the role of the minister, for significant contracts the Commissioner of Main Roads or the director general of Transport will say, “Minister, I’ve got these really important contracts. I need your approval before I sign them.” If it is really, really significant, the minister takes it to cabinet. The minister does not take the contract; they take the design concept that they are signing up for.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** In the six years I have been in cabinet, I have never seen a Main Roads construction contract go to cabinet. When I worked at Main Roads for 13 years, we never sent a contract up to a Labor minister or any minister to go through and give us advice by asking, “Oh, could you read page 527 and tell us what you think about clause 38(a), (b), (c)?” It never happens. The role of cabinet and the minister is to give concept approval to, yes, the alignment. A number of alignments go to the minister, and a lot of public consultation is done to check out a number of those alignments. While I am still on the first point, I will give members an example of what happens when a minister gets involved in contracts. This particular contract was very large and it was for Great Northern Highway between Willare Bridge and Fitzroy Crossing. A particular road construction contractor in Perth decided to tender on a road up there and its tender came in significantly below the normal tenders. The Labor minister rang the Commissioner of Main Roads and said, “I want you to take the lowest tenderer”, because that tenderer had gone in and told the minister. In fact, Main Roads did not award the contract to the lowest tenderer at the right price; it gave it to the number two tenderer because it did not believe the lowest tenderer could deliver on that price. The minister got involved and Main Roads was told to award it to the lowest tenderer. I will not mention the name of that contractor. It went bankrupt and Main Roads had to redo the contract, and it added another 50 per cent to the cost. It is very dangerous.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** Staying on this first point —

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Cockburn!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I have done a lot of work for the Auditor General on procurement.

Staying on the first point, with a contractor such as Leighton Contractors, which is a listed company on the stock exchange, it has to get advice out; it has to let the Australian Securities and Investments Commission know what is going on and when a contract is signed. It is very important that there is no pre-advice on anything to do with signing a contract. It is a very important probity issue. My staff made sure that it was very clear that I would not know the exact time, but after the contract was signed, they let me know. That is reasonable; I do not think it is a problem. The opposition seems to think that I need to know within one second of it being signed, or two seconds. It is not material. I knew it was going to be signed yesterday.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I was told after it had been signed.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I am still on —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Later in the day is later in the week!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** It was signed later in the week.

Several members interjected.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** It was! I had to be careful; I did not flag to the stock exchange —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan. I call you to order for the second time.

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**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I could not flag to the stock exchange the exact time or a rough idea of the time, so I kept it fairly vague. I was advised; it was very good advice from the director general that ASIC was looking at this. There was the contract not only of Leighton, but also WA Limestone and Georgiou Group, and some of those might be listed as well. I had to be very careful on that.

This is a stupid motion: “not knowing that the contract was being signed until after the fact”. That is the process. I knew after the fact because that is when it was signed.

**Mr P. Papalia:** You called a press conference!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** That was to announce that we were going to go ahead with signing the contract, not signing the contract.

I have dealt with the first and second points. Looking at the time, there might be another speaker; I am not sure.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Midland!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** The third point is very interesting. We have signed only the contract for Roe 8. Roe 8 is from Kwinana Freeway to Stock Road. That is all we have done. That is the road we have signed off. The opposition goes on to refer to other issues. The third point refers to “refusing to meet with the”—what? The opposition has used the word “affected”. What residents are affected in Palmyra by the signing of the contract for Roe 8, which goes from Kwinana Freeway to Stock Road? That is all we have done. We have signed off that contract.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** There are always options. Main Roads has in the drawer options for roads all over Perth—many different alignments—because it has to. When it makes little variations to alignments, it might affect the metropolitan region scheme, so it has to do concept designs to see whether the batter goes outside the MRS and those changes have to be made. Main Roads is always on the front foot as much as it can be. On the third point, I have another real life example that concerned a resident at the intersection of Tonkin Highway and Great Eastern Highway. The alignment was such that an elderly lady was going to lose her house and we would have had to try to find another place for her. Main Roads altered the complete design of that intersection so that the overhead carriageway was dropped. Tonkin Highway was going to go over the top of Great Eastern Highway. Main Roads changed it so that Great Eastern Highway would go over the top of Tonkin Highway, and by doing some clever retaining wall design, this lady was able to stay in her house. That is part of consultation. That is what happens when we get an alignment. That is why I am very careful about not saying where we are going, because all those things have to be considered. When they are considered, we can move on. But that is Roe 9; we are talking about Roe 8 now.

The fourth and last point is “failing to commit to releasing the contract.” I have to seek advice on whether there are any commercial aspects. I do not believe that anything in the contract is controversial. However, it would be imprudent of me to just say, “Oh, no problem; I’ll release the contract.” I am seeking legal advice on whether I can release the contract. Obviously, I will consult all the parties. Main Roads has six alliance partners in that. To return to the options, what are the options? What is Labor doing? If Roe 8 is not built, 6 900 trucks will continue to go along Leach Highway, Stock Road and Farrington Road. The best that the Labor Party could do, I have been told, if it actually built an outer harbour and got all the trucks going down to the outer harbour, which would be a massive exercise, and a massive cost too—a huge cost —

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** It would be \$3 billion to \$5 billion.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** It would be \$4 billion or \$5 billion, and also there would be a massive asset that is not being utilised—North Quay. Apart from that, if the Labor Party fast-tracked it 10 years, and if it received environment approvals, because there is special seagrass out there that is really hard —

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Cannington!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I did not realise I was going to speak for so long. The Labor Party’s plan is to retain the trucks and the congestion, and vehicles will not be safe in those important suburbs—the suburbs of the members for Willagee, Riverton and Jandakot. Our plan will get trucks off those roads, make it safer for vehicles and reduce congestion. This is a really good plan and, indeed, it has gone to cabinet and been ticked off. It is Roe 8. It is a nice section of road that joins sections one to seven, and now we have Roe 8. My next job will be to look at how we do Roe 9. Members opposite will be the first to know when we have worked out Roe 9.

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan)** [3.19 pm]: The minister just stood up and said, “I didn’t know the contract was going to be signed because we were keeping it a secret. We didn’t want to alert the stock exchange.” Why did the government do a press conference about it yesterday morning? Seriously, the stock exchange implications were the press announcement. That whole defence was completely false. The minister held a press conference and released a media statement saying that the government was going to sign a contract with these companies. Then, having said that he did not need to know when the contract was to be signed because of stock exchange implications, he held a press conference about it. The analysis of the NRW Holdings case was about when the press conference was held and when the media statement was released, not necessarily when the contract was signed. The idea that the minister should not know when the contract was to be signed because of stock exchange implications, when he held a press conference about it that morning and released a media statement, is completely false. He flagged it in the press statement. The minister stood in Parliament yesterday and had no idea that, while he was answering that question, the contract was being signed. He did not know what his own department was doing.

In relation to the Palmyra residents, and the Premier’s out-of-control outburst, the minister has put this option back on the table. The government has put this option back on the table. Another option had been endorsed by cabinet, and that was Stock Road going into a tunnel—the Perth Freight Link. It was endorsed by cabinet, and it was in the budget. The Premier sacked the former minister because he was not ready for the contract to be signed. That is why he was sacked. That is why it all blew up, because the minister said that he could not sign that contract before the election. It had a lot of integration between Roe 8 finishing at Coolbellup Avenue and the tunnel. Then, the Premier wanted something signed. He did not care about the consequences or about the former minister’s credibility and the work that had been done. He did not care about the policy; he just wanted something signed. That is all he wanted to do, so he sacked the former minister. He undermined him constantly.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** I think he resigned.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The Premier sacked him—forced him to resign—and then appointed someone — Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough. Carry on, member for West Swan.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Then the Premier appointed someone, and the first thing he told him was to go and sign this contract.

**Mr P. Papalia:** He appointed a dummy who would do it.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** He took something to cabinet; we are not sure. He took a one-page map to cabinet with lots of different lines. He did not read the contract, even though it was controversial, and apparently it had been around for a year. He did not read it; he did not want to get his head around it. He took a one-page map, apparently, to cabinet and signed off a \$340 million contract. That is what happened. It is \$450 million, because then we have the interchange, which is an incredible story in itself. The contract is varied by the degree of 30 per cent without going out to market. Meanwhile, the construction costs have dropped dramatically. There is no competitive tension, and then the minister does not even know when he is signing the contract whether there are two contracts or a variation on this contract. It is all over the place.

I want to go back to that Palmyra option. Listen to the minister today. He asked what options were on the table. He said on radio that one of his options is up Stock Road and along Leach Highway. That is what the minister said today.

**Mr J. Norberger** interjected.

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

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The whole thing is that the minister and his government have put it back on the table. They have completely trashed the other options, although now they are saying that the tunnel is back.

**Mr W.R. Marmion:** Are we?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** If the tunnel is back, why is the interchange needed? The minister just said “are we”. The Premier just said it. The Premier just said that the tunnel is the most preferred option, and the minister is saying that all options are on the table. Again, a few minutes into this debate, the minister and the Premier are again completely contradicting each other. The Premier said that the Palmyra option is not a live option, and how dare we scare people, but the minister is saying that the Palmyra option is a live option. It is there, and it is a key option on the table—yet again, complete chaos. The Premier appointed the minister to sign a contract; that is all he did. Now he has an option that goes nowhere near the port, creates enormous traffic congestion around that area and does not provide a solution. The minister today, in his defence of not knowing any of the details, said that he had only been in the position for two and a half weeks. He said on radio that he does not know the details

because he has only been in the position for two and a half weeks. Why did he allow contract to be signed if he had no idea about the detail?

**MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Corrective Services)** [3.26 pm]: I know that I only have two minutes, and it seems a bit like Groundhog Day, but I have a bit of a different view from that of some of my colleagues on this matter. I actually welcome the fact that the Labor Party is once again in this chamber saying that it does not support Roe 8, and is criticising us for it, because members opposite are making my job in the electorate of Jandakot a hell of a lot easier. They are making the Treasurer's job in Riverton a hell of a lot easier. A lot of people in Bicton and Bateman think it is a great project. The member for Southern River is saying thank you, once again, for bringing this issue back into Parliament and letting everyone know that the opposition objects to Roe 8 and the government supports it.

The big question here that is still unresolved is: what happened today at Palmyra? We know the Leader of the Opposition was there, like some kind of scary clown—one of those scary clowns running around scaring the bejesus out of everyone. He was putting them into a situation in which they are like a kid with a clown—petrified.

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Here is a question: did the Leader of the Opposition take the media with him today; did he invite the media out to Palmyra? He is so vain that I bet he did. He has had a lot of successful projects. He managed to get a new mirror in his ministerial bathroom. But did the Leader of the Opposition take the media out there? He cannot even answer the question. The bottom line is that we welcome the fact that the Labor Party objects to this project. We welcome the fact that the Labor Party opposes this project, because it is making the job of the Liberal Party in the southern suburbs so much easier every single time it raises this issue in this chamber. Thank you, Leader of the Opposition. Thank you, whoever the shadow minister is. I have one last comment: bring back Alannah; I miss her.

**MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle)** [3.28 pm]: I have had a lot to do with the people of Moody Glen, the people of Hird Place and the people of Palmyra. They were told over 12 months ago, buried in paragraph 7 of a letter, that their properties may be impacted by the Perth Freight Link, and to get in touch with someone at Main Roads Western Australia. A lot of them did not even read that letter; they thought it just meant that some roadworks were going to be happening in their area. Those who took two days to get in touch with someone at Main Roads were told that, yes, they could lose their properties.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, I call you to order for the first time.

**Ms S.F. MCGURK:** That has been the regard that this government has had for the people of Moody Glen. Actually, these people are quite savvy. They told me yesterday, and again this morning, that they never believed in the tunnel option. They said that the government has no idea what it is doing. When they met the former Minister for Transport, they said that he did not understand what placard loads are. When they asked whether placard loads were going to go through the tunnel, he said that the government would change the regulations. Now we know that dangerous goods cannot go through the tunnel. Under the Treasurer's plan, when the size of Fremantle port is increased by three times its current volume, there will be three times the number of trucks carrying dangerous goods.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**Ms S.F. MCGURK:** The Treasurer gets plenty of time on his feet in this chamber—shut it.

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer, if you wanted to have a chance, you could have spoken. I call you to order for the second time.

**Ms S.F. MCGURK:** Under the government's plan, there will be three times the number of containers carrying dangerous goods down Leach Highway.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer, I call you to order for the third time. I do not want you to have an early tea, but carry on.

**Ms S.F. MCGURK:** Of course, the Treasurer lives in Shenton Park, so he would not have a clue about this area.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough! Thank you. That is a wall of noise.

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 12 October 2016]

p6930b-6940a

Mr Mark McGowan; Mr John Day; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr Bill Marmion; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mr Joe Francis; Ms Simone McGurk

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**Ms S.F. McGURK:** Let us address the question about whether it was Hon Alannah MacTiernan's plan to alter that stretch along Leach Highway. That is not the case. Labor's plan—which was supported and had federal and state money allocated to it—was to alter Leach Highway from Carrington Street. If any members over there had bothered to go to the area, they would know that that is not Palmyra. That plan would impact East Fremantle and the Royal Fremantle Golf Club, but it would also make the 10 000 people who go to the Fremantle netball centre at Frank Gibson Park every Saturday during the netball season a lot safer. It also means that the intersection —

**Mr M.H. Taylor** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bateman, I call you to order now for the second time.

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** Labor has a plan to make those roads safe for the community and a freight plan that is for the twenty-first century— that is, a second harbour in an industrial area to move our freight to an industrial area away from —

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** By helicopter?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kalamunda, I call you to order for a second time. The member has one minute. I do not want any more noise.

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** We have a plan to move freight away from the metropolitan area, away from community and houses and to look after communities—unlike this government.

*Division*

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (19)

Ms L.L. Baker  
Dr A.D. Buti  
Mr R.H. Cook  
Ms J.M. Freeman  
Mr W.J. Johnston

Mr F.M. Logan  
Mr M. McGowan  
Ms S.F. McGurk  
Mr M.P. Murray  
Mr P. Papalia

Mr J.R. Quigley  
Ms M.M. Quirk  
Mrs M.H. Roberts  
Ms R. Saffioti  
Mr C.J. Tallentire

Mr P.C. Tinley  
Mr P.B. Watson  
Mr B.S. Wyatt  
Mr D.A. Templeman (*Teller*)

Noes (34)

Mr P. Abetz  
Mr F.A. Alban  
Mr C.J. Barnett  
Mr I.C. Blayney  
Mr I.M. Britza  
Mr G.M. Castrilli  
Mr V.A. Catania  
Ms M.J. Davies  
Mr J.H.D. Day

Ms W.M. Duncan  
Ms E. Evangel  
Mr J.M. Francis  
Mrs G.J. Godfrey  
Mr B.J. Grylls  
Dr K.D. Hames  
Mrs L.M. Harvey  
Mr C.D. Hatton  
Mr A.P. Jacob

Dr G.G. Jacobs  
Mr A. Krsticevic  
Mr R.S. Love  
Mr W.R. Marmion  
Mr J.E. McGrath  
Mr P.T. Miles  
Ms A.R. Mitchell  
Mr N.W. Morton  
Dr M.D. Nahan

Mr D.C. Nalder  
Mr J. Norberger  
Mr D.T. Redman  
Mr A.J. Simpson  
Mr M.H. Taylor  
Mr T.K. Waldron  
Ms L. Mettam (*Teller*)

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Pairs

Mr D.J. Kelly  
Ms J. Farrer

Mr M.J. Cowper  
Mr S.K. L'Estrange

Question thus negated.