

PERTH FREIGHT LINK — ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

583. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Transport:

My question relates to the environmental approvals for the controversial Roe 8 highway, or stage 1 of the Perth Freight Link, for which federal approvals have not been given. In fact, public submissions do not close until Friday.

- (1) Why did the minister tell protesters and media outside the Melville Cockburn Chamber of Commerce event this morning that all approvals have in fact been given?
- (2) Will the minister now correct the record?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

- (1)–(2) I want to touch on three premises of this project: one is safety, one is the congestion for the south west and one is the efficiency of freight movement through Perth. We have been working on this project —

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: This was quite a specific question about the environmental approvals and the minister's statement this morning. The minister has started his remarks by saying that he wants to talk about three different things. This is question time and I believe that he is obliged under the standing orders to answer the questions asked.

The SPEAKER: Right; thank you.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr D.C. NALDER: It is just that we see so much on this project—so many complaints and so much misleading information that has been put out in the public forum.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Cannington. You are already on two, are you not?

Mr W.J. Johnston: No.

The SPEAKER: Yes, you are on two, but I am going to let you off on this one. Calm down.

Mr D.C. NALDER: I have been advised since this morning that the federal government has had to delay because of a political stunt by Senator Scott Ludlam. I am very much aware of that. We look forward to that progressing through. All the indications are that everything was in order and that would progress. I look forward to moving on with Roe 8. We are still on track to be able to move to a contract for Roe 8 in around October, so that is what we will do. This is a great project for Western Australia because it will remove congestion, improve safety for travellers on suburban roads and improve travel times for trucks. I am talking about in the vicinity of 11 minutes off-peak and 15 minutes during peak. This is a fantastic project and members opposite clearly do not understand it.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I have a point of order, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: It is finished now. The point of order does not have any relevance. We are going to take a supplementary question.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: You have not heard my point of order yet, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I know what it is going to be! Carry on.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I can only suggest that you know that the minister is in error. The question simply was: why did he advise this morning that all approvals had been given? We still do not have the answer to that.

The SPEAKER: Point taken. I will let the member for Fremantle ask a supplementary question.