

DENNY AVENUE LEVEL CROSSING

392. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to fixing the dangerous Denny Avenue level crossing, which the previous Liberal government failed to do in eight and a half years. Can the minister outline to the house what this will mean for the people of Armadale and Darling Range, who were neglected by the Liberal–National government?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Armadale for that question and for his strong advocacy over many years for that project. Denny Avenue is a 170-metre road that has seen 154 crashes in five years. It has been rated by the RAC as the riskiest road in Western Australia, not just in one year, but over a number of years.

Mr D.C. Nalder: Your department rated it seventeenth.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Seventeenth?

We all know that removing that level crossing, creating the new Davis Road project, which will see Davis Road as an underpass and the rail elevated, will reduce congestion, improve safety —

Mr S.K. L'Estrange interjected.

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

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: — and will enable the revitalisation of —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, we have heard that three times now, and obviously you have not heard it yourself, because you keep repeating yourself.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: This will allow the revitalisation of the entire area. And the opposition asks who funded it. You know where we got the money from? The redirection of the Perth Freight Link funding. That is where we got it, from an agreement on the PFL funding. That is where we got it from. What a great idea it was of ours. We stopped the previous government's flawed project and used the money to fix Denny Avenue. That is a good decision. That is where we got the money from. The member for Bateman just said in his interjection that this project is the seventeenth worst; that it is cheap politics to do Denny Avenue. The Liberal Party yesterday —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Why won't you acknowledge the funding?

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

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Let me acknowledge the funding again. The previous government and the federal government wanted to fund the PFL. We went to the federal government—Mr Turnbull. I remember the meeting very well. We had that beautiful cup of tea, as I remember, and we looked over the beautiful view over Sydney. I remember that we convinced him to redirect the PFL money to this project. That is what I remember. It is good that the Liberal Party has not changed its spots. Yesterday the member for Bateman—the shadow Treasurer and former Minister for Transport—said that it is the seventeenth worst and it should not be a priority. The state Liberal Party is still there saying that we should not fix Denny Avenue. Yesterday, in the state Liberal Party's motion about Darling Range, the Leader of the Opposition, in 40 minutes of discussion, did not outline one achievement in the whole of Darling Range—not one achievement. Can members believe that someone who had been in government for eight and a half years, and who has been out of government just 14 months, could not outline one achievement in the entire Darling Range electorate—a growing community with extraordinary demands? Today is a great day, with the release of the design of the Denny Avenue replacement. We go out to procurement and we start next year. It is a great day for the people of Kelmscott, Clifton Hills and Roleystone, and all the people who have been calling for this project for so many years.