

FREMANTLE RAILWAY BRIDGE — WARNING SYSTEM

2149. Ms S.F. McGurk to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Public Transport Authority tender for the Fremantle Railway Bridge Early Warning System and ask:

- (a) is the government looking at an Early Warning System for the Fremantle Traffic Bridge (the Old Bridge) given that thousands of passengers use that Bridge every day, and if not why not; and
- (b) given an Engineers Report said the likelihood of the Traffic Bridge collapsing after being hit by a vessel was 66 times above acceptable standards shouldn't this Early Warning System be a priority?

Mr D.C. Nalder replied:

Main Roads Western Australia advises:

- (a) No. Main Roads, in conjunction with the Public Transport Authority, has investigated the use of early warning systems on both bridges. An early warning system was deemed inappropriate for the traffic bridge, which is able to flex given the nature of a bolted timber structure. The primary objective of the early warning system on the concrete rail bridge is to avoid a derailment. This issue does not exist for the traffic bridge.
- (b) As it was deemed that an early warning system was inappropriate for the traffic bridge; the priority has been to design and undertake works to improve the strength of the fendering system to better protect the bridge in the event of a vessel collision. It is expected that this work will be tendered mid-year.