

PERTH FREIGHT LINK — ROAD TRAINS

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

I refer to reports that B-triple multi-combination trailer road trains will be allowed to use the minister's flawed Perth Freight Link.

- (1) Is the minister aware, with all his trucking knowledge, that a B-triple multi-combination trailer truck is not this sized truck, but actually this sized truck?

Several members interjected.

Ms S.F. McGURK: Continuing —

- (2) Can the minister confirm that road trains will be allowed to use local roads under the Perth Freight Link plan, which is, according to Main Roads, to increase the number of containers through Fremantle port to over 1.7 million a year?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I know that people are very excited to have seen that, but calm down, please.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms S.F. McGURK: I will repeat my second question —

- (2) Can the minister confirm that these road trains be will allowed to use local roads and the Perth Freight Link under his plan, according to Main Roads, to increase the number of containers through Fremantle port to over 1.7 million a year?
- (3) What is the estimation of how many of these 53-metre, 127-tonne road trains local residents can expect to see on their roads?

The SPEAKER: Minister, did you get that?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

I got it, Mr Speaker.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.C. NALDER: It is the shortest question I have heard in question time!

Several members interjected.

Mr D.C. NALDER: I think we all had supper at some point in the middle of that question.

- (1)–(3) It is 36.5 metres, not 53 metres, so the member for Fremantle is a little bit out with her numbers. What we are looking at doing, just so people are aware—because the member did not get the numbers right as they were wrong; it is not one of those big long road trains—is to reduce the number of trucks. If we can create a freeway system that takes the trucks off our suburban roads and highways, and if we can create a system and reduce the number of trucks going through because we can put an extra container on it, I have encouraged Main Roads to explore it as an option. A final decision has not been made.

Point of Order

Ms S.F. McGURK: I asked the minister to address specifically the question of 53-metre road trains?

Dr K.D. Hames: Your question was longer than that truck!

The SPEAKER: Minister for Health, I call you to order for the first time.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr D.C. NALDER: I was sure I answered it.

Government members: You did.

Mr D.C. NALDER: It was 36.5 metres, not 53 metres. But that is longer than what is currently allowed. I have asked Main Roads to explore that because if we can reduce the number of trucks by getting an extra container on them, on a dedicated route for containerised trucks —

Mr M. McGowan: It doesn't reach the port.

Mr D.C. NALDER: It does reach the port. The trucks are leaving the port today, and they have containers on them. Members opposite keep saying it does not get there, but it does. In stages, we are removing the traffic

lights. Phase 1 removes six traffic lights. Once we do all the way through, it will be about 16 traffic lights. It will save 11 minutes off-peak and 15 minutes on-peak. This is a fantastic thing for the industry. They are crying out for it. There will not be 53-metre trucks.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, it is not your question.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

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

Mr D.C. NALDER: I think I have given a fairly good explanation. The member for Fremantle has got it wrong. We are working on an integrated transport solution for Western Australia. Let me remind people that it will look at not only public transport on rail, but also bus solutions, the movement of freight, the movement of people and the bicycle networks. We are working on an integrated solution for Perth, not a fly-by-night little single solution that tries to appease people with a slogan—that is all I can call what the opposition is doing.