

PERTH FREIGHT LINK — FEDERAL FUNDING — MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT'S COMMENTS

**372. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the minister's comments today regarding the \$2 billion flawed Perth Freight Link project, and his refusal to commit to the project with or without federal funding. I quote —

“I am not going to comment on whether we would take it on fully or not, I don't think that is appropriate at this point in time,”...

I also refer to the Premier's comments on the same issue three weeks ago, when he fully committed to the project either way. I quote —

“It would mean that the state government would have to pay a bigger share of it.”

Why is the minister again at odds with the Premier on an important matter of transport policy?

**Mr D.C. NALDER replied:**

Firstly, let me clarify that we are committed with federal government support for the project. The member just said “with or without”. We are fully committed to the project, with federal government support. The question was put to me this morning whether we would go ahead without federal government support. At this point we are in an election cycle with a caretaker arrangement, and I was not going to start to partake in some of the politics that are being played out at a federal level. I did not believe it was appropriate for me —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Let the minister answer!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** — to be commenting on whether or not we would commit to it fully, should the Labor Party win the federal election, because I just did not think that was appropriate at this time. I believed that was the responsible response to make as the Minister for Transport for the Western Australian government.