

REGIONAL ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM

129. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the record number of job-creating infrastructure projects and initiatives that the McGowan Labor government has secured on the latest Infrastructure Australia priority list, including the regional road safety program.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how the regional road safety program would not only improve safety on country roads but also create jobs and support business?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house the reasons that the federal government should join with the state in funding the program and help deliver this important road safety initiative?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member for Bunbury for that question. Not only do we have a record number of contracts out there—both Metronet and road projects—but we are also working with Infrastructure Australia to get more projects rolled out into the future. This year, as the member highlighted, there is a record number of Western Australian projects on the national list—23 projects. These include transport and water projects across government. We have been doing the work to get those projects noticed nationally. That is what we have been doing, unlike the previous government, which did not do the work to get those projects on the national agenda.

One of the most pleasing results of this year's list was the regional road safety program, which has now been recognised as a national priority. We see this as a significant priority for spending in Western Australia, and we have raised this project with the federal government over the past year and in more recent months. We see it as part of what we believe will be a great economic stimulus package for Western Australia. This spending can happen now; it can be rolled out now. We have the approvals, we have the contractors in place, and we can go out and spend more money in regional Western Australia, making our roads safer. We will see greater employment in regional WA. We will see small businesses supported by the fact that there will be more workers out there, rolling out this program.

Ms L. Mettam: What's the priority?

The SPEAKER: My priority is to call you to order for the first time, member for Vasse.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is great to hear from the member for Vasse. Does she support shutting down the railcar manufacturing industry?

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I call you to order for the second time.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call you to order for the third time, member for Vasse. You are not setting a good example.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Vasse does not support regional road safety, members. We know that. She does not support regional road safety. We want to make it a priority, and we have made it a priority.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, do you want to go home early? Just tell me, and I will send you on your way.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: If the member for Vasse wants to interject, does she support her leader's comments on the railcar manufacturing industry? One more comment. Does she support her leader's comments on the railcar manufacturing industry?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: She is not answering now, members. Does she support railcar manufacturing in WA? She does not support railcar manufacturing, just like her leader did not in what would be one of the worst presentations on *Business News* this morning, as I understand it. We will have more to come on some of the Leader of the Opposition's comments in relation to *Business News* this morning.

In relation to road safety, we are working really well with the commonwealth government and engaging with federal ministers, unlike the previous government, which did not do the work, did not do the business cases and did not get projects on the list. We are doing the work, and we believe this project will not only save lives but also create jobs and provide economic stimulus throughout Western Australia.