

PERTH FREIGHT LINK — TUNNEL PROPOSAL — PROPERTY PRICES

**1043. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Transport:**

I note that today's front page report in *The West Australian*, fittingly titled "Tunnel Vision", claimed that a freight link tunnel would see house prices in Fremantle, Palmyra, Melville, Willagee and Hilton "soar" by up to 50 per cent over a 10-year period.

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange** interjected.

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

**Ms S.F. McGURK:** I note that the report on the front page of *The West* titled "Tunnel Vision" claimed that house prices in Fremantle, Palmyra, Melville, Willagee and Hilton will "soar" by up to 50 per cent over a 10-year period.

- (1) Is the minister aware that over the previous 10 years, house prices in all these suburbs have increased by between 71 and 118 per cent?
- (2) Does this not mean that, according to the minister's own report, house prices will actually be kept lower with a tunnel?

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

(1)–(2) I find that a really bizarre question because —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** I have not seen anywhere any comments attributed to me saying these things. I, too, read what was in the newspaper. On Tuesday, I alluded to—members may recall this—that as a result of selling off the Fremantle eastern bypass, the previous Labor government has held back those surrounding suburbs.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** These guys do not like the truth. There is one real problem that I have and there is one thing that I cannot solve —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** The wall of noise!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** This project is going to save lives.

Several members interjected.

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** One of the things that I cannot solve that members opposite do not realise is that because they sold —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** Members opposite hate this, so they keep interjecting; they do not want to hear it. Because they sold the Fremantle eastern bypass, I cannot remove the trucks off Hampton Road in South Fremantle; I cannot remove them. That is the disgrace. All the trucks that come out of Cockburn going through to the port will go right through the suburbs. It is the Labor Party's responsibility that those trucks are going through Fremantle people's community. That is a disgrace.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** With regard to this project, we are committed to saving lives. We are committed to freeing up congestion. We are committed to doing this project.

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Mr Speaker, the question asked by the member for Fremantle was specifically about the house values in the area; it was not a general question, so I ask you to call on the minister to answer the question he was asked.

**The SPEAKER:** Come back to property values, minister.

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 26 November 2015]

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Ms Simone McGurk; Mr Dean Nalder; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Speaker

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*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** Certainly, Mr Speaker, but the member has attributed stuff that I have never said with regard to property values. When I was talking about this, it was about these suburbs relative to the rest of the metropolitan area of Perth.

**Mr P.C. Tinley:** So you did say it!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** No, I did not say that.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Willagee, I have given a bit of latitude. Now let us get this thing going.

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** What I said on Tuesday was that by getting rid of the Fremantle eastern bypass, the Labor Party has had a negative effect on property prices, and that is on a relative basis to the rest of the metropolitan area.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the first time. You might not like the answer, but listen to the answer. You can ask another question if you want to.

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** I will repeat what I said on Tuesday: when a surface solution is provided for the removal of trucks off urban roads and highways, it will improve property prices by 20 per cent in the neighbouring area. That is what I said on Tuesday. I said that if a tunnel is built, it suggests that prices will be far higher. That is what I said on Tuesday. That is all I have said and I stand by that.