

LEVEL CROSSING — DENNY AVENUE, KELMSCOTT

**773. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the need to fix the level crossing at Denny Avenue in Kelmscott.

- (1) Is the state government committed to removing the level crossing at Denny Avenue?
- (2) What is the expected cost for the project?
- (3) When will work commence?

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

(1)–(3) It is really interesting that last week I saw three members opposite put out a press release —

*Point of Order*

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I have a point of relevance. I asked a specific question. Can the minister answer the question?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Armadale, I do not know whether you are a mind-reader, but I will give the minister 60 seconds.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** I got half a sentence out! I think he knows what is embarrassing in this one, because three members opposite were out saying, as part of their public transport solutions, they are going to fix every level rail crossing in metropolitan Perth. The member for Cannington, the member for Victoria Park and the member for West Swan were out in the press saying that they were going to fix every one. There are 31 of them! The government has only a rough estimate at the moment, and I have shared it with members opposite, that the level crossings will cost in the vicinity of \$50 million to \$70 million each. If there are 31 of them and let us say they cost at the upper end, that is \$2 billion of the opposition's total \$2.5 billion to fix up an integrated transport solution.

*Point of Order*

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I have a point of relevance.

**The SPEAKER:** You asked about Denny Avenue.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** My question was specifically on Denny Avenue. The question had three parts on Denny Avenue.

**The SPEAKER:** Just address Denny Avenue now, please.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** I think that understanding the context of all level crossings in the metropolitan area is really important. Denny Avenue is one of them, and the government has an estimated cost of doing the grade separation at Denny Avenue of circa \$70 million. I have shared that in the house before. The member has asked a question that we have given the answer to before.

Yes, it is important, but so are a number of others. We have a level crossing on Welshpool Road. After the members' opposite approached someone upstairs and asked him to follow me up on certain level rail crossings on the Midland line, the media followed me up. I said, yes, they are important—like all 31 of them are—and as this city grows and transforms, it is going to need a long-term approach to get them sorted. It should be, irrespective of members' politics, that long term we want to see this result. I am not making any promises that I am delivering all 31 next term, yet I sort of got that sense from the opposition's press release last week that that is what three members opposite were doing. The government wants to get on and fix these level crossings, but we are being responsible and honest about the challenges that we face, and it is irresponsible of opposition members to say that they are going to do them all when they cannot.