

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM — FEDERAL–STATE FUNDING

**875. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:**

I have a supplementary question. Is it fair to say that Western Australia's infrastructure program is better treated by a federal coalition government than by Labor?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

My understanding is that when it all comes out, even despite the challenges that I just raised, that when compared with the other states, WA will be treated better than the other states. That is my impression of what will be happening, but this will be for a couple of reasons. Firstly, the other states have projects worth —

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I was going to give the member a description —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Sorry, you have had the opportunity to ask your supplementary question. The minister has fairly begun her answer.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** In comparative terms in relation to this infrastructure review, we have had cost challenges. I have always said that. But I tell members what: a cost challenge on a \$200 million project compared with a \$10 billion project is very different. When a state is running \$5 billion and \$10 billion projects and there is a 30 or 40 per cent cost increase, that is major. The other states are in a very different position from us. We have managed our pipeline more effectively. We have a longer pipeline of work. We have not entered into \$10 billion public–private partnerships, which are very risky in relation to cost exposure.

We are in a better position to deal with any decision by the federal government, but, as I said, we are very pro WA and we will fight for every project. In relation to the other states, because we have managed our pipeline better, because we have not entered into \$10 billion commitments, and because we worked well with both sides of government, we are much better placed to deal with any decisions should they come.