INDIAN OCEAN DRIVE PROJECT - LANCELIN-CERVANTES PORTION

341. **Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

(1) Given the minister's statement in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, 11 September 2001 that Indian Ocean Drive would be completed by 2005, and in light of the current budget surplus, why will the minister not bring forward the completion of the Lancelin-Cervantes portion of the project?

(2) How much will the project now cost?

(3) When will the project be completed?

(4) What is the reason for the project not being completed?

Hon ADELE FARINA replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

(1) The state government does not have unlimited access to funds and the allocations available for roads must be prioritised against many high-priority projects across the state. Consideration for funding to enable the completion of the Lancelin-Cervantes project will be considered as part of the development of the 2008-09 state budget. In the meantime, works are underway to construct the first section of this link from Lancelin to Ocean Farms Estate, as well as associated works such as Mimegarra Road and associated haul roads for the next stage.

It should also be noted that the availability of funds for state roads is being severely impacted on by the actions of the Howard federal government. The federal government is refusing to commit to providing a 50-50 equal funding arrangement for the new Perth-Bunbury highway. It is also failing to adequately fund maintenance on its AusLink road network, requiring the state to use its own funds to the tune of some $15 million each year for urgent maintenance needs on roads that are the federal government's responsibility. If the Howard government met its funding obligations, state projects such as the Lancelin-Cervantes road could be completed sooner.

(2) The estimated cost to complete the link between Lancelin and Cervantes is approximately $153 million, in out-turn dollars.

(3)-(4) Refer to the answer to (1).