

BUNBURY PORT — GRAIN — ROAD TRANSPORT

**417. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Transport:**

I have a supplementary question. Considering the numerous road fatalities and serious accidents on the Coalfields highway, does the minister concede that there will be an increase in safety problems in that area because of the extra grain trucks and road trains travelling at four-minute intervals?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:**

There is conflict on our roads right around Western Australia, and there has been an increase in the number of heavy vehicles on our roads right across the state. That is one of the by-products of the state's economic growth. The issue the member outlined is not unique. The challenge for government is to make sure that we have funding available to deal with those issues when they arise, and we do. It is in part about the money the government is continuing to spend on regional roads, as we always have done, but that funding is also being supplemented incredibly by the money provided from the road trauma trust fund.

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Did anyone speak to the Shires of Collie or West Arthur?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** What I can say to the member for Collie–Preston is this —

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Answer that question. That's part of it.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** — the port of Bunbury will be supported as it facilitates trade, and part of that will be the money that this government —

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Typical. Let's mark your card: "B" for bully, "B" for bra-snapper and "B" for boofhead.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Charming.

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Don't you start.

**Dr K.D. Hames** interjected.

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Open your mouth and we'll see what happens then.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** There's another threat.

**The SPEAKER:** Premier and member for Collie–Preston! Member for Collie–Preston, I formally call you to order for the first and second time today. Premier, I call you to order for the first time today. Minister for Health, I call you to order for the first time today.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I will conclude by saying that trucks use roads. There are occasions when, because of changes in road use, there is more conflict between trucks and normal motor vehicles. That is one of the by-products of the changing nature of the state's economy. Thanks to decisions taken by this government, we now have the capacity to invest in those roads and to make them safer. Given the significance of the port of Bunbury to the member's community both now and into the future, in particular in facilitating the sustainable growth of the coal industry, I am surprised that the member for Collie–Preston will oppose the progressive development —

**Mr M.P. Murray:** I am not opposing it at all. We want a safe road between —

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** There is a safe road; we invested \$25 million making it a safe road.

**Mr M.P. Murray** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston! That concludes question time.