

INFRASTRUCTURE — FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

801. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:

I refer to reports today of the federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government discussing the Albanese government's so-called 90-day infrastructure review, which is now in its 191st day, and its impact on Western Australian projects, and saying that she was "working in lockstep with the WA government" and there were only a "small amount" of WA projects that "won't be proceeding". Given that the federal minister is working in lockstep with the Treasurer, can she confirm to the house which Western Australian projects will not be proceeding?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. In relation to the infrastructure review, that is being undertaken by the federal government, of course, as a survey of the infrastructure pipeline across the nation. As I have said a number of times, I am very proud of the infrastructure that we are delivering across the state. The feedback that I get from everybody is about the amount of work that is happening, whether it is the transformational Metronet project, a project the opposition opposes; the Bunbury Outer Ring Road; the Albany ring road and the benefits that will deliver; or the incredible outcome of the Fitzroy River Bridge, member for Kimberley, and the works that we are undertaking. We have a record infrastructure spend and we will continue to deliver infrastructure across the state.

Of course, the federal government inherited a set of books and some projects, particularly over east, the cost increases of which were far more significant than over here. In fact, I understand that the cost pressures in our state budget are very minimal compared with what happened over east. Over there, when a \$10 billion project increases in cost, that is a major issue. We do not have projects of that size and we have not experienced cost increases similar to those in the other states.

I am very keen to continue to deliver the projects that we have. That is what I have said and I will continue to say it. We have a good set of projects that will help drive economic growth around the state and help reduce congestion. WA is a growing state; it is a development state. We all know it. We see it. Every second person in the business world who comes up to us has a project that they want to deliver in WA. It is actually incredible —

Mr R.S. Love: Which projects are going to be cut?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Leader of the Opposition will have to ask the federal government. In relation to this, I have not seen or received the outcome of that review. I am presenting the case for Western Australia. The case for Western Australia is that we are an infrastructure state, we are a growing state and we need to continue to support infrastructure projects around the state.