

AUSLINK, ADDITIONAL \$52 MILLION

Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

What has been the opposition's response to the success of the state government in negotiating another \$52 million as part of the AusLink negotiations?

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Warren-Blackwood to order for the first time.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: I ask members opposite to be on their best behaviour because we have students from the John Calvin School in the gallery and we want to be a great example to these very wonderful young people.

We thought Don Randall was the member for Canberra but it turns out he has nothing on the member for Murray. The state opposition has shown itself to have far more allegiance to the Liberal Party than it does to Western Australia. After we successfully concluded these negotiations with the commonwealth and got an extra \$52 million for Western Australia, the opposition spokesperson, the member for Murray, accused WA of being greedy for holding out for more funds. He said to the ABC -

I suppose parochialism on one hand says that what she's done for Western Australia is reasonable, but, look, you know, I think you've got to work within the parameters that all the other states have to operate in.

What a poodle; what a lap dog! I will tell the house what other states operate in. They operate in a far, far better situation than Western Australia, as we have taken great pains to point out in this house time and again. Western Australia is given a raw deal when it comes to transport funds. I am going to make members opposite listen to it again, because eventually they will understand. We have one-third of the continent, we have 22 per cent of the national transport road network, we have 50 per cent of exports by volume, we have 30 per cent -

Dr G.G. Jacobs interjected.

Mr M.J. Cowper interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the members for Roe and Murray.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: Western Australia has 30 per cent of exports by value, and 15 per cent of the national fuel excise comes from Western Australia. At the very lowest level we have 10 per cent of the population, but what do we get? We get less than eight per cent of road funds and less than three per cent of rail funds. The government has done a good job. We have another \$52 million, but we are not leaving it there.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the members for Capel and Moore.