

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT; TREASURER — AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT

1218. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the recent report by the Auditor General that states —

Despite Western Australia’s (WA) significant investment of public money in major projects, Parliament and the public cannot easily access information on their progress. Our previous reports have highlighted the need for greater transparency in this area of significant public interest.

It also states —

... there has been no progress on our recommendation for regular and accessible public reporting on the status, and cost and time performance of major projects.

- (1) Has the minister also formally referred the Auditor General’s report to the Treasurer to seek advice on how to establish better financial accountability of major projects; and, if yes, please table correspondence?
- (2) If not, has the Treasurer formally advised the minister on whether new mechanisms of improved financial accountability are being established by the Treasury portfolio to manage the minister’s massive capital spending as Minister for Transport; and, if yes, please table correspondence.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(2) The honourable member was a senior staffer of the Barnett Liberal–National government while, as outlined by the Langoulant special inquiry, “Too many major projects have been undertaken on an ad hoc basis and without adequate planning”, when information was withheld from the public, in addition to a shadow budget process for royalties for regions, and when many projects had inadequate or no business cases. Updates on projects are provided through the state budget and midyear review processes, as well as at major project milestones.