

STATE BUDGET 2013–14 — ROAD FUNDING

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

I have a supplementary question. Having said that, does the minister stand by his comments and make it very clear for *Hansard* that if the commonwealth withdraws its funding, it is highly unlikely that these roads will go ahead; or is it just going to be another broken promise?

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

I just said —

**Mr M.P. Murray:** I heard you! I just want you to confirm it.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I said it about a second ago!

**Mr M.P. Murray:** But we can't believe what you say once; you've got to say it three or four times.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** The good news for the member for Collie–Preston is that the \$50 million-plus to upgrade the Collie coalfields highway is happening. A big chunk of it is being spent —

**Mr M.P. Murray:** I'm not asking about that.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** A big chunk of it will be spent. That is the road to the member's home town that he has never asked a question on in Parliament in eight years, just for his information.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** It is a very simple equation: if the commonwealth does not provide that funding, it is highly unlikely that those road projects will go ahead. If the commonwealth does not —

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Sit down—you've answered the question.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** If the commonwealth does not provide the funding —

**Mr M.P. Murray:** No, no! I don't want anymore.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston, unfortunately, you are not in charge of proceedings here. Minister, have you finished?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I was nearly finished, Mr Speaker, but I was interrupted by the member for Collie–Preston. I was just going to say that if the commonwealth does not provide that funding, I will write to every Western Australian federal member of Parliament and arrange a bus to drive them from Perth to Port Hedland and from Port Hedland to Perth via Great Northern Highway and North West Coastal Highway.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I will give members a tip. There will be a raffle —

Several members interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** One of the good things is that I have a bus driver's licence —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the second time. Member for Victoria Park, I call you to order for the first time. Have you finished, Minister?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** The member for West Swan can come; it will really add spice to the road trip! But we are going to go up and come back and I am going to make them sit at the front of the bus!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** It is all right; the member can sit down the back. That section of road desperately needs to be upgraded.