

TOW TRUCK INDUSTRY — REFORM BILL

822. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:

I have a supplementary question. The minister still has not answered the question. At what stage is the draft of this bill and when can we expect to see it introduced to Parliament?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

We are drafting the bill at the moment. As I said, we have already done more in this area than the previous government did in eight and a half years. History does not stop. We can go back to the previous government's term when wheel clamping was occurring everywhere.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Including at my office!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I think it was the last straw when they clamped the minister's vehicle at his own office!

Mr W.J. Johnston: Clamped my car in my car park at my office.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That is probably a bad thing.

We moved to ban wheel clamping, and we did that. We moved to reform the Department of Transport's existing regulations and powers. We looked at the existing regulations and powers in relation to the tow truck industry, and we have moved on that. We also looked at other legislation that we had to change. The Minister assisting the Minister for Transport, Hon David Michael, the member for Balcatta, is working very hard to do this and, of course, is working with me. This is another key priority.

Mr R.S. Love: When will we have it? When are you going to bring it to the house?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As I said, we have already done more in this area than the previous government did in eight and a half years. How many transport ministers did the previous government have? Who can remember? Honestly! I know what the previous government's transport ministers used to do at night. Do members remember?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: They knew a lot about the tow truck industry because they needed it all the time!

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No wonder they did not want to regulate the tow truck industry; they needed it for their after-hours activities—so they could do it and sweep it under the carpet! Honestly! That is why members opposite did not regulate the tow truck industry. They probably had favours that they called upon that night in Subiaco when they had to hide the government car after it trashed half of Subiaco.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members.

Withdrawal of Remark

Dr D.J. HONEY: The minister is making direct, uncorroborated and untrue assertions against the Leader of the Opposition. She should withdraw or make her comments clear.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, I accept that that is your opinion, but I certainly do not uphold it as a point of order. I can understand why people might not like what the Minister for Transport is saying; however, there have been incessant interjections, many from your side of the chamber, and the more the minister is interjected on, the more she responds to those interjections, which does not help us get onto the next question. Minister, I ask you to conclude your remarks.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: If the member for Cottesloe does not know whom I am referring to, where has he been living for the past 10 years? If he does not know whom I am referring to, maybe we need to do a podcast. Maybe we will do a podcast about it, because I know the member loves his podcasts. We will do a podcast about what happened that evening.

Mr J.N. Carey: To his audience of five.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That is us two!

Mr J.N. Carey: He has an audience of five.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Actually, it is three if you exclude us!

The SPEAKER: Sorry, please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We are doing more to stamp out illegal behaviour in the tow truck industry than the previous government ever did. It did not concentrate on it. It did not finish it or start it. It did nothing for eight and a half years.