

PERTH-MANDURAH RAIL PROJECT, BAN ON INDUSTRIAL ACTION

739. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

Before I ask the question I welcome students from my old school of St Josephs, Pemberton, to the Parliament of Western Australia.

Dr G.I. Gallop: Hear, hear!

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Will the Premier support Leighton-Kumagai's application to ban industrial action on the city section of the Perth-Mandurah rail project?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

There is no question that all the people who are involved in the construction of this tunnel are well aware of the safety issues. I talk of both the work force that is involved and those who are responsible for the engineering side of the project. The tunnel boring machine, or TBM as it is called, is stopped only when it can be done safely. Negotiations between employers and employees on this matter is a matter for them. There is no way the government will support anything on this project that will jeopardise it. I tell members this: when this project is completed, the opposition will be lining up with us to get on the train to Mandurah. All of these efforts to undermine this project will come to nothing. We will not support any arrangements that undermine the safety of that project.