

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE — RECYCLED MATERIALS

192. Mr D.R. MICHAEL to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in transformational road and rail infrastructure across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how the government is embracing sustainability in the delivery of these projects, including through the use of recycled materials?
- (2) Can the minister advise what this means for our environment and the budget bottom line?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) Of course, we are spending a record amount on infrastructure throughout the state—a record program of transport infrastructure. But we also are coupling that with a record amount of recycling of materials across the state. A lot of the new roads that people are driving on and the new rail lines that they will be travelling on include a lot of recycled material. Over the past three years, Main Roads has used over 4.6 million tonnes of recycled or re-used material across the state. This includes crushed recycled concrete produced from concrete and demolition waste. In fact—I like this story because it demonstrates exactly what can be done with recycled material—about 98 per cent of the concrete from the two-tier and three-tier football stands at Subiaco Oval and the old hospital was re-used in the Kwinana Freeway base, which is incredible. If we think about it, when travelling along that road, we are travelling on the area that we used to sit in while watching our favourite team play on the weekends. It is incredible.

Dr A.D. Buti: South Fremantle winning the grand final.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: If South Fremantle win the grand final. The Dockers are doing well.

It also helps produce a better outcome. For the Morley–Ellenbrook line, we are set to use over 21 000 tonnes of crushed recycled concrete in our busways, roads and car parks. Recycled plastic is being used in noise walls for the Thornlie–Cockburn Link and the Byford rail extension. In particular, we believe that using recycled plastic in noise walls has a huge future. We are testing and trialling that because we believe that re-using that type of material for noise walls will be very effective in using some of our unused or recycled plastic. We also re-used crushed glass in some of the areas adjacent to our rail lines. Main Roads has also supported the establishment of three recycling factories for crushed rubber. Crushed rubber is being used by local governments and, of course, the state government in all of its infrastructure program. We see this as having massive potential to continue to reduce waste, not only for government projects, but also for all private sector projects, and we are working with the Minister for Environment to see how we can support the use of recycled rubber and concrete in particular in many of our projects across the state.