

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE — KIMBERLEY REGION

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

I refer to the upcoming wet season in the Kimberley and the failure of the state to reopen the Great Northern Highway in 2023 for up to 105 days.

Hon Kyle McGinn interjected.

Hon NEIL THOMSON: Do you think it is a joke?

Hon Kyle McGinn: No, I think you're a joke.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order, members.

Hon NEIL THOMSON: Immature behaviour.

- (1) Has the minister developed contingency plans to ensure heavy transport between the West Kimberley and the East Kimberley is uninterrupted by coming summer rains to the greatest extent possible and reasonable?
- (2) If yes, what are those contingency plans?
- (3) How should transport companies plan to maintain supplies into and out of the East Kimberley from October 2023 to April 2024?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1)–(3) The state government is currently investigating options for maintaining some level of access, including provision for freight, over the Fitzroy River this wet season. Main Roads will continue to liaise with industry in preparation for highway closures over the upcoming wet season.