

PERTH-BUNBURY HIGHWAY - COMMENTS BY DON RANDALL, MHR

**607. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

Is the Liberal Party rewriting history on the Perth to Bunbury highway, and can the minister tell us who is doing the heavy lifting on this program?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question. Last week we saw on the history web site of the Liberal Party that it had commandeered the government's northern suburbs railway project and had claimed it as its project. Mr Don Randall, the federal member for Canning, is now doing very much the same thing with the Perth to Bunbury highway. He is claiming that it was his project and that he has had to drag the state government screaming to develop the project. I have a certain amount of sympathy for the Liberals. They do not have any projects of their own. They have not done the big infrastructure jobs that Labor governments have done.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call to order the members for Avon and Murray.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** The member for Avon -

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Darling Range to order for the second time.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** The member for Avon promised that he would be well behaved today, but he could not even keep that promise!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** When the Labor Party was elected to government, it discovered that nothing had happened with the Peel deviation. It had not even been put on the shopping list of the federal government. I will give members a quick run-down of the letters that were sent. Immediately we got into government, we started buying the land for the Peel deviation. In 2001 I wrote to Minister Anderson, and Minister Anderson wrote back saying that no funding was available. In 2003 I wrote to both Mr Anderson and Senator Campbell, who at that stage was minister for roads. Mr Campbell wrote back in December 2003 saying that it was premature to commit to the project. In early 2004 I again wrote to Campbell and Anderson and they wrote back saying again that it was too early to commit. Then, suddenly, the federal election was to be held and in mid-2004 they changed their minds. The government has had to push and shove for this project since 2001. We got nothing out of the federal government; we got no commitment and no cooperation until the 2004 federal election was right on its doorstep. We are putting in the vast majority of the funds for this road. The only thing that will stop this road is the decision that was made by Senator Campbell that we should duplicate the environmental process. The environmental process has already been completely undertaken and approved by state agencies.

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I ask the minister to take her seat. I am sure the member for Cottesloe can count to three. He is on three warnings for his performance during question time. He should keep going if he wishes to be removed from the chamber. I warn him for the last time.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** I want to make it absolutely clear that every stage of this project has been driven by the state government and at every point it has come up against resistance from the federal government. We want to work in cooperation with the federal government. I want members on that side of the house to go to Senator Campbell and tell him to give us environmental approval so that we can get this road started.