

Mr Mike Board; Speaker; Ms Alannah MacTiernan; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Clive Brown; Mr Paul Omodei

ROAD SAFETY, ROADS IN SOUTHERN SUBURBS

747. Mr M.F. BOARD to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

The minister would be aware of the two truck accidents on South Street this morning, one involving a passenger vehicle, in which a woman and a two-year-old child were taken to hospital. Thank God there was no loss of life.

- (1) Will the minister concede that mixing passenger traffic and heavy freight vehicles on local roads in the southern suburbs is not in the best interests of road safety?
- (2) In the light of this accident, and given that there has been an increase of approximately 300 accidents on Leach Highway over the past 10 years, does the minister concede that there is a growing risk to drivers on these roads as the freight traffic increases?
- (3) Is the minister aware that even if she achieves her target -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the members for Peel and Carine. Interjecting while a question is being asked is disorderly. Members should show some restraint.

Mr M.F. BOARD: My question continues -

- (3) Is the minister aware that even if she achieves her target of transferring 30 per cent of freight from Fremantle port to rail, there will still be a doubling of freight on Leach Highway and South Street by 2008 if the Fremantle eastern bypass and Roe Highway stage 8 are not completed?
- (4) Will the minister concede that that is not in the best interests of the community south of the river, and that she has got it wrong?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Members!

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

The hide and the hypocrisy of this member! Today he was talking to the media and saying that the Government has got to get on and complete Roe Highway stage 7. We have been in government slightly longer than two years and we have completed Roe Highway stage 4, we have completed Roe Highway stage 5, we are halfway through Roe Highway stage 6, and Roe Highway stage 7 is well under way. The only fly in the ointment is the member for Murdoch himself and his Liberal cabal in the Save Our Suburbs group.

Mr M.F. Board interjected.

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: I will tell the member; he asked a question and he is going to get the answer! The only thing that could potentially stop the completion of Roe Highway stage 7, which this man is calling on us to complete, is the work of the state Liberal Party members who are seeking to persuade -

Mr M.F. Board: Read our lips! Build the thing; get on with it.

The SPEAKER: Member for Murdoch!

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: What hypocrisy; it is unbelievable! Members opposite were in government for eight years and not one centimetre of Roe Highway did they build. We have been here some 26 or 27 months and we have already completed two stages.

Mr P.D. Omodei: You're standing up there like a fishwife.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Warren-Blackwood to order for the first time.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr M. McGOWAN: I request that the member for Warren-Blackwood withdraw what he said a moment ago.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The member for Warren-Blackwood did not call the minister a fishwife; he was referring to somebody in the third person.

Mr C.M. BROWN: Mr Speaker, my good friend the member for Warren-Blackwood did refer to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure in that very derogatory way and the member should apologise. He knew what he meant to say. He said it.

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

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Mr C.M. BROWN: I am happy to be described in that way; better than a gummy. The member for Warren-Blackwood should, if he has the courage, Mr Speaker, seek your indulgence and apologise.

The SPEAKER: Order! The particular term used can be offensive if directed at someone. I did not hear it in that manner, but if the member for Warren-Blackwood, who knows what he said, did direct that comment at the minister then I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I said that the minister was standing there like a fishwife. I understand that the offensive comment is swearing like a fishwife.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: I would like to address that point -

The SPEAKER: Order! Please take your seat, minister.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: If my comment that the minister was standing there like a fishwife is offensive to the minister, then I withdraw it. That is what I was going to say.

The SPEAKER: Order! The comment is withdrawn.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: I want to point out that the phrase is not offensive to me. I want to make one other point, and I will take this opportunity to do it. I believe that there are members on both sides of this House who are appalling in the way they treat women in this Chamber. Women are constantly derided because of their voices, because when these mung beans opposite are screaming and we attempt to respond, somehow or other there is something offensive about a female voice. I do not mind being called a fishwife by Rambo from the bush. We know that these blokes opposite do not reckon that women should be in the Parliament. The way they want to appeal to their constituents is by roughing us up. Well, they can do it. I can take it. I do not care what members opposite call me; they will never faze me from speaking the truth. What I want to talk about today is the hypocrisy of this member, who got out there today and said the Government should get on with building Roe Highway, while at the same time he and his idiot mates are on John Anderson's phone every day trying to stop the federal Government from giving us the money to do that.

Mr M.F. Board: I have never asked John Anderson not to fund Roe 7.

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: Okay - the member's electorate officer.

A couple of other points need to be made today. The key point is that the traffic on Leach Highway has reduced since we have completed Roe Highway stages 4 and 5.

Mr M.F. Board interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Murdoch!

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: The second point is that we have a comprehensive strategy to move freight off road and onto rail. However, that is not our total solution. We have a six-part plan, which includes making land use decisions that will reduce the number of trucks going into and out of Fremantle. That plan has been set out time and time again. The third point is that there is an inherent logical dysfunction in what the member is saying, because if we build Roe Highway stage 8 and the Fremantle eastern bypass, we will still have trucks and cars mixing on the roads. Building more roads will not stop the problem of having trucks and cars mixing on the roads. What we are doing is taking a far more creative and sustainable approach to the management of traffic rather than pretending that a couple of lines on a map will do something for somebody.

Mr M.F. Board interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Murdoch to order for the first time. I also advise members that I will strictly adhere to the rule that members should refer to other members only by the name of their seat or the office that they hold. Any member who contravenes that rule from now on will be called to order.