

PERTH-BUNBURY HIGHWAY

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

I welcome to the chamber the executive members of the Bunbury Wellington Economic Alliance, who are in the back row of the Speaker's gallery.

Can the minister advise the house of the current progress of the new Perth-Bunbury highway?

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

I thank the member for the question. I know that he is very interested in travelling on this road. Member, it will not be very long.

Several members interjected.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** I think a lot of members opposite will use this road. Of course, we know that over the Easter holidays many people will travel down to the great south west, and there will be a great deal of traffic congestion. Therefore, we want to use this opportunity to let people know that Main Roads will be operating counter-flow arrangements over the Mandurah Estuary Bridge. On the way down south, two lanes will be operating in a southward bound movement, and coming back the other way —

A member interjected.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** Yes, it is something that we introduced. It was a very creative measure that we introduced to manage this issue. At the same time, people will observe that work is going on at a tremendous pace to build the new Perth-Bunbury highway. I want to let members know that we have now reached a stage at which about 31 per cent of the overall project has been undertaken. We have awarded 239 contracts, and 41 per cent of those are in fact to local Peel and Bunbury companies, representing some \$53 million worth of investment in the Peel and Bunbury regions. We have mobilised a team of 319 personnel and more than 1 000 subcontractors, notwithstanding the statewide shortage of labour. Another interesting fact is that 53 per cent of those people have been sourced from the Peel region. We have established five sand and limestone quarries to meet the raw materials requirement of the work. Nine of the 14 segments have been launched at the massive bridge over the Serpentine River. In fact, in May we will be starting the launch program over the Murray River. Work has started on four of the five interchanges, and piling is complete at the Murray River, Pinjarra Road, South Yunderup Road, Nambeelup Brook and Harvey River bridge sites. It is all going gang busters, and we are well and truly on target to complete this road next year. This is another great infrastructure story from the Carpenter Labor government.