

WESTPORT

**937. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:**

I note the announcement yesterday of a preferred site for the Westport outer harbour.

- (1) When will the government be open with the Western Australian public about the true cost of the new harbour and associated infrastructure?
- (2) Will the new harbour be operational in 2032, as originally promised; and, if not, when will the new harbour be operational?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

- (1)–(2) We will obviously be in a position to finalise the overall costs and construction time lines once we have completed the business case. It is interesting that the member raised the issue of the business case, because this is the second time today that we have seen signals coming from those opposite about their attitude towards the responsible planning, development and funding of public infrastructure. We heard from the member for Vasse earlier today, who said, “Just build a new detention centre. Just build it. Just get on with these sorts of things.” But I think I disagree with the member there. If I may, Madam Speaker, the member for Vasse in a tweet earlier today said —

... the best it can come up with is \$1m to create a plan ... to deliver a plan on how to shut Unit18!  
We don't even have a delivery date.

Clearly, what the member is saying is that there should be no such thing as a business plan; there should be no such thing as the development of a case; there should be no such thing as the development of the time lines. We have this now from the member for Cottesloe, as well. We look back at their sorry time in government and think: How did they get it so wrong? How were they so bad in government? How was it that they completely trashed the state's finances? How is it that we ended up in a position of debt and deficit, literally borrowing to pay the bills and the expenses of that year? How did we get here? I think now we know why. We have this slight little insight here today. Members opposite have no respect for proper planning, no respect for proper business cases, and no respect for financial insight. All they do is go ahead and just commit themselves to all kinds of expenditure, all kinds of ridiculous ideas, and that is why they are so bad in government, and that is why the idea of a Liberal–National government of Western Australia is the biggest risk to Western Australians today. If these people get back into government, they will ruin the state's finances again. My evidence is the comments from the member for Vasse, and now the comments from the member for Cottesloe. We can see writ large here the complete disrespect and disregard for taxpayers' funds, and we know what would happen, perish the thought, if they ever got back into government again.

We will continue to work through with careful planning the arrangements in relation to Westport. We made an important announcement yesterday about understanding the exact location and configuration for Westport. It will be to the south end of the Kwinana industrial strip. It will involve a sea breakwater to protect the wharf and an integration of the Kwinana Bulk Terminal jetty. Those are important next steps of what is a long-term program for Western Australia. We are a trading state. We are a significant trading state in the economic engine room of the country. We have to get this right. This will be a decision in the development of infrastructure that has to stand the test of time. We have to make sure that it is fit for purpose and can continue to help our Western Australian economy grow and continue to create great Western Australian jobs.

I think that the indicative date for the development of this is about the mid-2030s, and we will continue to plan to make sure we have a clear pathway forward, but it will be on the basis of the proper planning and deliberate and careful consideration of the engineering and other aspects. Nothing of that sort took place when the member was in government.