

WESTPORT

938. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given the Premier now apparently does not have a business case for the outer harbour where it is, why is he continuing to make a commitment to that project?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I want the Parliament to acknowledge and take note that the imputation of the member's question was that they will continue to privatise Fremantle port and will continue to develop Roe 8 and all those problems. That includes I think at one point the member's party was going to have a tunnel under the Swan River and a four-lane highway at Curtin Avenue. I would love to see him explain that to the good people of the electorate of Cottesloe.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

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The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: What we announced yesterday was the outcome of the scoping and planning in relation to the position, and the multi-criteria that are required to decide on the site and configuration of the port. We did not say that there was a business case.

Ms L. Mettam: You didn't say much!

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! The Premier has the call.

Mr R.H. COOK: The Minister for Transport and I and the Minister for Ports yesterday outlined the site, the configuration and the outcomes of the study into the multi-criteria assessment that was undertaken in understanding the position of the port, and will now go through the planning and so on.

Because the member for Vasse continues to raise her presence in this debate, I want the Parliament and the people of Western Australia to note that this mob wants to privatise Fremantle port. They want to privatise Fremantle port. When they were in government, they opened up a data room so that proponents could come in and assess their bids for the Fremantle port. Does the member deny that there was a data room for proponents to come in and assess the value of the port?

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: There is none. We also know that at some point into the future, Fremantle port will become congested and constrained by its size, so we need to have a government that is capable of a vision and a government that is capable of developing —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: — world-class transport infrastructure to ensure that we can continue to supercharge our economy, to continue to make sure that we can create great Western Australian jobs and to make sure that Western Australia remains the engine room of the nation's economy.