

FITZROY RIVER BRIDGE

1163. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the postponed Main Roads Western Australia community presentation planned for 2 October in Derby. My electorate office staff member was travelling from Broome to Derby to attend and be provided with information that the minister has thus far refused to deliver in the Parliament, only to be advised on the day of travel, the day of the session, that the information session was cancelled.

- (1) Did anyone in the minister's office including the minister direct or request Main Roads to cancel the community information session at the last minute?
- (2) If yes to (1), is this because the minister seeks to maximise political advantage from the announcement of a date on the bridge opening?
- (3) Is there a likelihood that the bridge will be opened to some traffic by the end of November 2023?
- (4) Is there a likelihood that the bridge will be opened to heavy traffic, including road trains, by 15 December 2023?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)–(4) Work on the new Fitzroy River Bridge has been progressing exceptionally well due to the hard work of the men and women on the ground at Fitzroy. It has been noted widely that the member has constantly criticised the progress of the work on the bridge, and, in turn, the workers.

Hon Neil Thomson interjected.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I beg your pardon. Does the member want the answer?

Hon Neil Thomson interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: An announcement regarding access arrangements for the coming wet season will be made very soon.