

WESTPORT

**916. Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to planning and building the generational infrastructure required for the years to come.

Can the minister outline to the house how this government's Westport project will provide the essential support for Western Australia's strong economic growth in the decades to come, and can the minister inform the house how this government's commitment to transformational infrastructure projects such as Westport and Metronet compares with the short-sighted priorities of the Liberal and National Parties?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

As we know, the state Cook Labor government has a plan to build a new port in Kwinana. It is a once-in-a-generation, once-in-a-century decision.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** This plan is all about making sure that Western Australia is prepared to continue its role as the trading capital of the nation. We represent over 40 per cent of the nation's exports and our container trade continues to go from strength to strength. We set about doing a very detailed plan to facilitate a new port in Kwinana. Today, we released an outline of where the new port will be and how it will operate. There will be a container terminal parallel to the shoreline on the site currently occupied by the Kwinana Bulk Terminal. A new Kwinana bulk terminal will also be built. There will be a new breakwater to provide enhanced protection for the port, major upgrades to the freight roads leading to and from the new container port including Anketell Road, and duplication of the freight line between the container terminal and Cockburn, and, significantly, the plan identifies the three intermodal terminals that will be upgraded or created to support movement of freight. This is a long-term plan to make sure that Western Australia continues to be an efficient trading state across the nation.

Of course, all the work that has been undertaken has been to assess the different options that were put forward. We had to assess exactly where the port should be located. There was a multi-criteria analysis to ascertain the economics and environmental impacts, and particularly on this project the location for the new port. We chose the port that would have the least environmental impact in relation to dredging and, of course, impact on seagrass. It also makes sure that we plan the land side. Too many times, work has been done to look at a port's impact on only the maritime or marine infrastructure. This is about the land-side logistics. That includes Anketell west, upgrades to the Kwinana Freeway with the widening of the Kwinana Freeway between Anketell and Russell Roads and the widening and supporting of extra capacity on the road, and it also looks at further planning and the development of Anketell to the east, as well. It is very complicated and sophisticated planning. This is about making sure that WA can continue to create the jobs of the future. We are determining a new port—a port that will serve generations to come and make sure that we have the capacity to continue our role as a major trading state of the nation. We can compare that with the previous government's plan—Roe 8 and 9 and selling the port. That was its plan.

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It was going to sell the port.

**Mr R.S. Love:** We weren't going to sell it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Yes, it was. It spent \$25 million. I recall that it created a data room to allow investors to come in and look at the economics of Fremantle port. That is what it was going to do—sell the port and build Roe 8 and 9.

**Mr R.S. Love:** We were not selling the port.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** That was the former government's plan. It was always its plan. Our plan is to have a port in government ownership. We will create the port of the future to make sure that Western Australia can continue its role as the major trading state of the nation.

**Government members:** Hear, hear!