

KIMBERLEY FLOODS — TRANSPORT LINKS

50. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:

As of 14 February, it has been 43 days since the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Bridge collapsed. I note that only one small bulldozer—D6 or D7—is operating on the ramp down to the river, and it has been reported that the lack of Aboriginal heritage clearances is impacting on work.

- (1) Why has the minister not deployed more civil construction resources to support alternative transport solutions?
- (2) Why did the minister not start the process of heritage clearances earlier?
- (3) When will all clearances be completed?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I think that if the honourable member thinks that because he says it has been 43 days, that somehow he is trying to make a point that the government is dragging its feet or not acting quickly enough—I think that is what he is trying to do—which is an extraordinary proposition, if that is what he is trying to do.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thanks, President.

- (1) The water level in the river had to fall sufficiently before construction of the ramps down to the landing sites could be constructed.
- (2)–(3) Main Roads Western Australia has been engaging with the traditional owners since early in the flood emergency, and continues to consult with them on the proposed barge landing site on the western bank. Once all cultural approvals have been received, Main Roads construction crews will mobilise and build the ramp and landing on the western bank.

You're a genius, mate; you're a genius!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Member, just give us a minute while the chamber settles.