

COUNTRY AREAS - INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING

**293. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

Can the minister confirm that Labor is continuing its big spending on country infrastructure, particularly road and rail in the south west?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** The inland of the south west division has done very well out of this budget for both road and rail. We were inspired yesterday by our friends in the National Party. After eight years of National Party ministers, to paraphrase Roger Miller, not Don McLean, this is what I think we got -

Westrail for sale or rent  
Country road funding barely 50 per cent  
Left Main Roads \$400 million in debt  
But still delivered five deficits  
Spent eight years building city roads  
They left the bush carrying big loads  
But when it came to Tammin and Binnu,  
they were  
Kings of the road!

[Applause.]

The song goes on to describe how we are queens of the road!

I will get down to specific details. In the south west land division, \$5 million has been dedicated from the Safer Roads program to develop improvements to the South Western Highway south of Donnybrook. We have provided \$5.2 million that will be spent on a series of passing lanes north of Donnybrook and also one in the Hester's Hill region, as well as \$11.6 million for the Bridgetown bypass. I reiterate that during its eight years in government, the previous coalition government built not one millimetre of railway. Not only has this government built a freight line in Albany and freight rail in Geraldton, but also it is doing the same in the south west. This year's budget provides \$14.5 million of state money to upgrade the Greenbushes intermodal terminal to create a real future for rail in the south west.