

FREMANTLE EASTERN BYPASS

Statement

HON JIM SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [4.15 pm]: During members' statements yesterday Hon Simon O'Brien got his considerable whiskers in a knot about the Fremantle eastern bypass not being built. He obviously considered that to be a very important regional issue to raise at that time! He seems to have a little fixation on that road not being built. If that road is not built, it will free up quite a lot of money to be spent on regional road networks, which is where people want that money to be spent, rather than on ramming a road through an area in which the population does not want it. He called it a disgrace. The disgrace is that members opposite and their colleagues in another place - that is, not the Legislative Assembly but the Melville City Council - are spending \$300 000 of ratepayers' money during an election period to try to beat up the possibilities of their candidates. We are yet to see the names of some of those candidates go into the ring for the state election. They are using ratepayers' money to try to get Liberal Party members elected to the State Parliament. That is a disgrace. If members want to talk about a disgrace and a waste of people's money, that is it.

Hon Norman Moore: Go and do something about that in the Melville City Council instead of wasting our time with it. They will support anybody who is opposed to your position; it does not matter what party they are.

Hon JIM SCOTT: Hon Norman Moore obviously has not yet been brought into the right branch of the Liberal Party. He has not realised with whom he is dealing. What is the difference? By the way, the Save our Suburbs community group pinched its name from a group in East Fremantle.

Hon Peter Foss: Oh dear!

Hon JIM SCOTT: I said that to show that there is nothing original in the Liberal Party. That group was set up by two members of the Liberal Party - Hon Simon O'Brien and the retiring member for that area. The members who say that it is a disgrace that the Fremantle eastern bypass will not be built are, as part of their election campaigns in the South Metropolitan Region, finding ways to spend ratepayers' money to try to cadge some votes. That is a disgrace. The people of Melville need their money to be spent on important facilities in their area, not on trying to get a road built through Fremantle or on putting pamphlets into letterboxes in Fremantle in an attempt to get Liberal Party people elected to government.

Hon Ray Halligan: You just said that "wants" are wrong and that we have got it wrong as far as wants are concerned. If they want this, who are you to decry it?

Hon JIM SCOTT: I am talking about the ratepayers rather than the councillors, who are not doing what the ratepayers asked them to do.

Hon Ray Halligan: Have you asked the ratepayers what they want? No, you haven't.

Hon JIM SCOTT: Councillors like Russell Aubrey wanted to get a Liberal Party seat. He could not even manage that, even though he has tried before to be a member for a few parties.

Hon Peter Foss: You seem to not like local government.

Hon JIM SCOTT: Pardon?

Hon Ray Halligan: He doesn't like roads either.

Hon JIM SCOTT: Members opposite want to not only waste money on things that are not wanted, but also take money from areas such as Kalgoorlie where people want roads to be upgraded; for instance, the Meekatharra road. Members opposite have it all wrong.

Hon Peter Foss: The unions and the Greens do not want it.

Hon Ray Halligan: You put yourself on that pedestal and you are telling us that everyone else is wrong. They are wrong and you are right.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon JIM SCOTT: I am sure that members opposite love having that money spent on their election campaigns. I know that is wrong. It is an absolute disgrace that that is happening. Let us watch the people who have put their hats in the ring to be elected as Liberal Party members at the next election and who are using ratepayer funds in their bid to be elected. That is an absolute and utter disgrace.

Hon Ray Halligan: Explain how they will do that. How will they get their hands on \$300 000?

Hon JIM SCOTT: They will run a campaign throughout the region boasting about the wonderful job they have done and criticising people who did not want a road through Fremantle to back up -

Hon Ray Halligan: That means you're blaming all the local government authorities that contributed to the one vote, one value issue.

Hon JIM SCOTT: I am not at all. This has nothing to do with that.

Hon Ray Halligan: Yes, you are!

Hon JIM SCOTT: We are saying that people should not vote to have money spent on themselves. It is a real disgrace.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I acknowledge the presence of the Speaker in my gallery. Of course, given that recent round, he will feel right at home, as though it were the Legislative Assembly. I also acknowledge, of course, President Burgmann.