

ROE HIGHWAY STAGE 8 — FUTURE TRAFFIC DEMANDS STUDY

**534. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer the minister —

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, members! I think Hon Sally Talbot wants to ask a question. Perhaps her colleagues might allow her to do so.

**Hon SALLY TALBOT:** I refer the minister to the study being conducted by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure and Main Roads into the future traffic demands in the south metropolitan area.

- (1) Has the study been completed?
- (2) If yes to (1), what does the study say about the government's plan to build Roe Highway stage 8?
- (3) If no to (1), how can the minister justify the budget's fast-tracking of Roe Highway stage 8 in the absence of the findings of this study into future traffic demands?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

- (1)-(3) I thank the member for the question, but I have not received notice of it. The study that the member refers to cannot, by definition, be finalised until some other things have happened. About five or six years ago, minimum, some decisions that should have been made by the former Labor government were not made. Those were little decisions, such as where will be the location of future port facilities in the metropolitan area of Western Australia. The former Labor government embarked upon a study of future transport corridors in the south west metropolitan area, without knowing where those sources of origin and destination were going to be. What I have put in place is an optimum study group that will report early—in fact, I will be meeting with the chairman of that group very soon —

**Hon Sally Talbot:** That is not what this question is about. This question is about —

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Hon Sally Talbot has asked the question. The minister is answering it. How the minister chooses to answer the question is a matter for him. My predecessors took a similar view, and I trust that my successor will take a similar view.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Mr President, I am trying to assist the member. What is this?

**Hon Sally Talbot:** I am trying to assist you by giving you a copy of the question!

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** If the member genuinely wants some information, why not provide some notice of the question?

**Hon Ken Travers:** Because we want to see how much you are across your portfolio!

**Hon Sue Ellery:** We are allowed to ask you questions without notice!

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** I think I have demonstrated that I am well across what is happening in my portfolio and in my region. The member asking the question obviously does not have a clue about what she is talking about. I have tried to assist the member, but apparently members opposite are not interested. They just want to play some pathetic sort of political game.

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, members! Any member who wants to ask a question had better not interject again.