

LEACH HIGHWAY–WELSHPOOL ROAD INTERSECTION — UPGRADE

**592. MR S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Transport:**

Can I just say, Mr Speaker, that the next time we sing *Happy Birthday* in the chamber, maybe you should turn off your microphone!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** There is fake news and all of that—I call you to order for the first time for insulting the Speaker!

**Mr S.J. PRICE:** I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion Western Australia recovery plan that includes a significant investment in job-creating transport infrastructure across the state.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on this government's record investment in road projects, in particular the upgrades to the Leach Highway–Welshpool Road intersection?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house what this project will mean to motorists in the eastern suburbs?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Forrestfield for that question.

- (1)–(2) It was another busy day as we announced the third proponent of the new Leach Highway–Welshpool Road interchange. We also turned the first sod on the first stage of the Stephenson Avenue extension project, a project that was put forward by the member for Balcatta. It is another project that was ignored by the previous Liberal government for eight and a half years. I remember visiting the City of Stirling when we were in opposition. It put forward why it needed the Stephenson Avenue project to facilitate the growth of the Stirling city centre. It was a project it could not get traction on under the previous government, but there we were today, with the federal government and the City of Stirling, announcing and turning the sod on the first stage of that project—another project that has been brought forward as part of our recovery plan.

The Leach Highway–Welshpool Road project is a \$90 million project involving a consortium of WA companies. That intersection has been ranked either the first or second most congested intersection across the network since about 2014. This has been a problem for many, many years and it is the McGowan Labor government that will fix it.

The final contract is due to be awarded in December this year. The government has brought forward this project six months from the previous schedule. Early works are expected to commence by the end of this year. Those who drive past that intersection will have seen the pipes and services that need to be relocated. The Leach–Welshpool alliance consists of local companies BG&E Pty Ltd, Georgiou Group Pty Ltd and Golder Associates Pty Ltd. Currently, 50 000 vehicles pass through that intersection every weekday. The area services key commercial activities in the Welshpool commercial area, Perth Airport, Kewdale freight terminal and surrounding residential areas.

As the members for Victoria Park, Cannington and Belmont would know, this intersection, together with the project to remove the level crossings through Welshpool and Victoria Park, will completely transform how we move around that corridor. It is a much-needed boost of infrastructure spending, creating jobs across the state. This government will continue to focus on and provide infrastructure and new jobs. Other projects that were brought forward are the Bunbury Outer Ring Road; Leach Highway–Welshpool Road, which I have mentioned; Stephenson Avenue, the second stage of which has been brought forward; the Fremantle Traffic Bridge; and, of course, Roe Highway and Kalamunda Highway, which are also progressing very well. Other projects along Roe Highway and Great Eastern Highway will be brought forward, as well as the Albany ring-road, the Lord Street extension, the Tonkin Highway gap, which is a much-needed project, and the freeway extension and widening in the north. Projects around the state are being brought forward, creating jobs and helping to stimulate economic activity in WA.