

TRANSPORT — FEDERAL FUNDING

222. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's fight to secure its fair share of federal funding for its job-creating, congestion-busting road and rail projects. Can the minister outline to the house to what extent this government's investment in transport projects has been matched in the 2019–20 federal budget?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for that question. There has been a lot of discussion about federal funding coming to Western Australia. We are very happy that we have put money on the table for a number of projects while we wait for that federal funding to come. The Albany ring-road is the best demonstration of that. We put \$35 million on the table for that project—doing the work! The federal member for that area —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He is going around blaming the state government —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I know you think it is a chat-fest, but I want to hear the minister's answer. It is a very good one.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He was going around saying that it was all our fault that the project was not being done and he is now claiming credit somehow for this project. I will go through that in a minute.

We remember the tweet from the member for Scarborough about the Albany ring-road.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It said, "Why'd you secure funding for Albany ring-road when the State Labor Government hasn't given a cent yet?" I will go through how many times we announced the \$35 million for Albany. On 30 May 2017, we announced \$35 million for the Albany ring-road. On 30 May, it was on Peter Watson MLA's Facebook page. The 2017–18 state budget has that money in it. The media statement relating to the state budget has it in. The "Investing in WA Roads" information pamphlet has it in. The 2018–19 state budget has it in. The 2018–19 fact sheet on the budget has it in. The media statement of 30 August 2018 has that funding in it. But the member for Scarborough —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, that is enough.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Scarborough said, "Why'd you secure funding for Albany ring-road when the State Labor Government hasn't given a cent yet?" The member has deleted the tweet! We went back to see why she should be so keen to delete that tweet, given that it is not the first silly thing that she might have said through social media. The tweet was done at 12.47 am on 29 March 2019.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Either the member's phone and Twitter were set to New York time, or something very strange happens in the middle of the night when the member for Scarborough is tweeting about the Albany ring-road.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Unlike Donald Trump, at least she had the ability to delete that fake news that she tweeted. We will be putting out more information, but the cash flows being put forward by the federal government are a tad disappointing. Rick Wilson is saying, "Build it now!" when the first dollars from the federal government for this project will start flowing in 2021–22 and the majority of the funding is outside the forward estimates. Yesterday the member for Central Wheatbelt asked what we were doing on regional road safety. The member will be interested to know that the majority of the \$70 million funding is beyond the forward estimates—in 2023–24. We are disappointed that this budget does not have the funding in the forward estimates to deliver the projects. Even though federal government members are saying we should build it now, the funding will not be flowing for three or four years. But we will get on with the job with the planning and environmental approvals. We will get our funding there to make sure that we get on with the job and deliver these essential projects.