

FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK — WORKER SAFETY

856. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Transport:

I have a supplementary question. I note the minister's response and the statement that she made saying that the contract requires the management of a safe workplace. What steps has the minister taken to ensure that the workplace safety requirements of an Australian workplace are being adhered to in the tunnel project?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Minister for Mines and Petroleum, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

As I said, the Public Transport Authority is managing the contract. WorkSafe has been involved. We have continually dialogued with the company, outlining the requirements that we need in WA to make sure that the workplace is safe. I said in opposition that tunnelling in Perth is a challenging thing. The Liberal–National government said that tunnelling in sand is easy because it is soft. In fact, it is not that easy to tunnel in sand.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Leader of the Opposition!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Scarborough wants to stop the project and to cancel the contract and leave two TBMs sitting underneath the ground. The issue with TBMs is that it is not easy to just stop and think about things. It is very difficult to pause TBMs.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine! You do not have to interject on every question.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We have to adhere to a schedule to protect safety. We in this place cannot direct what happens on a day-to-day basis at the worksite. We have to make sure that, overall, we have a safe environment and that is why we have encouraged and engaged WorkSafe to make sure that we have a safe work environment.