

REID HIGHWAY

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in job-creating, congestion-busting road infrastructure, including the widening of Reid Highway. Can the minister update the house on this project, including how it is creating local jobs and supporting local businesses, and can the minister outline to the house how this government has been able to invest in so many job-creating projects such as Reid Highway?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question and, of course, for her commitment to reducing congestion and improving safety throughout that north-east corridor. As a result of the redirection of the Roe 8 and 9 money, we are able to go out and deliver so many road projects across the metropolitan region.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Reid Highway is, yes, a major congestion point. It is one that we are addressing. Four hundred jobs have been created, member for Swan Hills. A lot of local people were employed, too—I met people from Ellenbrook and Lockridge on site, members for Swan Hills and Bassendean. Jobs are being created through a pipeline of work. These are projects that people have been calling for. Of course, this work would not be underway if the opposition had its way. The Leader of the Opposition, together with Christy Cain, supported Roe 8 and 9 and rejected the Westport Taskforce and the new port. Our projects are delivering a pipeline of certainty and a pipeline of work, wherever we go. The widening of, and improvements to, Mitchell Freeway are underway because we diverted the money from Roe 8 and 9 to those projects. The freeway south widening is one of the member for Baldivis's favourite bits of infrastructure that is being delivered across the state. That is happening —

Mr D.C. Nalder: That is not true; freeway south.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Freeway south.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The widening of Kwinana Freeway is happening only because we diverted funds from Roe 8 and 9. We will keep telling that story to everyone. What about Karel Avenue, member for Jandakot? There is the Armadale Road–North Lake Road bridge project and the Wanneroo Road overpasses. Projects are happening all around the state because we diverted the funding from Roe 8 and 9. I had another great meeting with another federal minister today, Mr Alan Tudge. It was a great meeting, in which we looked at all the progress we have made and all the progress we will make into the future. Do members know what he did not raise with me? He did not raise Roe 8 and 9. He was so excited about all the work that is underway and that we can do together, because even he knows Roe 8 and 9 are not a priority for the state. I know the Leader of the Opposition is wedded to it. Maybe it is another captain's call, like her deputy and like her position on retail trading hours, which was obviously a captain's pick that no-one was involved in. There was her captain's call on Western Power and on putting a wrecking ball through the finances of the state. I say to the members for Churchlands and Bateman that we all knew it would unravel eventually, but no-one could have expected it to happen so quickly!