

FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK — WORKER SAFETY

**855. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Transport:**

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Cottesloe I acknowledge the year 9 students from Methodist Ladies' College, in his electorate, who are in the gallery this afternoon.

I refer to the shocking exposé on Channel Nine last night on the Metronet Forrestfield–Airport Link contract that revealed that the minister was advised 11 months ago of significant safety concerns on the project, including the potential for injury, even death. As minister, why has she failed to intervene and what exact measures will the minister now take to protect the workers' safety?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for the question. Quality and safety is the number one priority of this government. The contract we inherited is a design and construct contract. We have limitations on what we can do on a day-to-day basis, but we are very, very keen to make sure that the safety and quality requirements are adhered to. We have had WorkSafe visit the site and we are making sure that we are doing everything within the constraints of our contract to get a good outcome for WA. The other side sits there; the Liberal–National government championed this contract when it signed it. It was warned about potential quality issues with this contract.

**Mr D.C. Nalder:** Show us that warning. Where?

**The SPEAKER:** Excuse me! Member for Bateman, I will tell you where. I call you to order for the first time.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The member was warned.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I am on my feet. I call you to order for the first time. Other members, if you ask a question, listen to the answer.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Members were warned about it. The Liberal–National government said that tunnelling in sand is easy. Last night, we saw the member for Scarborough on TV say that we should cancel the contract and we should let the two tunnel boring machines sit there because we do not own them. They are owned by the company. She said that we should walk away and leave two TBMs sitting there tens of metres underground, leaving this vacant area and half a tunnel built. That is what the member for Scarborough is saying.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** Do not take me out of context.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Scarborough!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The member for Scarborough said that we should cancel the contract and leave the TBMs there—to extinguish the contract. This is a challenging project, as I have said on numerous occasions. The Public Transport Authority, together with all government agencies, is working to make sure that safety and quality are the number one priority, and that is what we are doing.