

SOUTHERN GROWTH CORRIDOR - FEDERAL LABOR POLICY

578. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

Can the minister comment on federal Labor's promise to invest \$9.8 million in the southern growth corridor, particularly the communities of Kwinana and Mandurah?

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for this question. I am sure that a number of members in this house will be extremely interested in this development. This has been a very positive development. We have seen once again, at a federal level, an engagement with the issue of urban renewal and how we can better plan our cities and how we can get revitalisation and rejuvenation to make sure that in our cities and towns, where 80 per cent of the population live, we are producing quality outcomes.

We have had no engagement from the Howard government on this issue. It has been the very strong view of conservative governments federally that they are not interested in urban renewal. They do not see that they have a contribution to make. In fact, the friend of those opposite, Wilson Tuckey -

Mr M.W. Trenorden interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Avon to order for the first time.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: In fact, when Wilson Tuckey was the minister in charge of urban affairs, he was totally hostile to the concept of it even being discussed at planning ministers' meetings. We have had a series of what we call the UFOs - the unplanned funding objects. The federal Howard government has flown around the country and dropped a few rashers of bacon here and a few rashers there. However, that is in great contrast with the announcement that was made by federal Labor, which has actually taken projects that have been worked through with the state government and local governments and added value to those projects by making a financial commitment. We have the fantastic project of the revitalisation of the Mandurah central business district. Federal Labor has agreed to come on board as a one-third financial partner in that project. There is also the Kwinana town centre revitalisation. The Town of Kwinana and the state government are working very closely together. The federal government has now agreed to inject \$3.3 million towards that project. We have the chance to go back to the time of the Building Better Cities program under the last federal Labor government, through which came major contributions to East Perth, Subiaco and Marsden Hill in Bunbury. All three of these projects have been absolutely leading edge urban renewal projects. East Perth, Subiaco and Marsden Hill were all made possible by federal Labor's Building Better Cities program. We now have a new program, Better Regions, which will do the same thing again under the Rudd government.