

MATAGARUP BRIDGE — CONSTRUCTION

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

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Geraldton, I would like to acknowledge the students from Strathalbyn Christian College in Geraldton who are in the gallery today.

Also, on behalf of the state Parliamentary Liberal Party, I offer the minister and her family our condolences for their recent bereavement. I also pass on our condolences to the Premier.

I refer to Matagarup Bridge. Did the head contractor seek —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I refer to Matagarup Bridge. Did the head contractor seek any indemnity or insurances from the state government for any injuries that may occur to pedestrians who are using the incomplete bridge, including an uneven and slippery walk surface, given the site has not been handed over to the state and effectively remains a construction site?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for that question. This is an alliance contract between the state and two private sector companies. I think I was away when the member for Scarborough made some absolutely ludicrous claims about the state of that bridge. She insulted the work that was undertaken by Western Australians. As soon as I got back, I walked across the bridge to see whether it was as big a hazard as she stated. She made ludicrous and disgraceful complaints. Main Roads, together with the contractor, has made sure that it is safe to walk across that bridge. That is what it has done. Seriously, the criticism of and insults to Western Australian workers about the quality of the bridge has been noted in particular by those who worked long and hard to get that bridge open.