

“SPECIAL INQUIRY INTO GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS: FINAL REPORT”

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

I refer to the McGowan government’s new era of diligence in project management following the Langoulant inquiry. Did the minister conduct a proper tendering process for the repurposing of the Roe 8 contract to the Wanneroo Road, Armadale Road and the Fiona Stanley Hospital access projects? If not, why not, and will she now table all the relevant business cases?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Scarborough for that question. I find the opposition’s new-found interest in probity, governance and business cases amazing. After, what was it, a multi-billion dollar Serco contract with no business case and a \$ 1.8 billion stadium with no business case?

Mr S.K. L’Estrange: Answer the question.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is about governance and business cases.

I find the question quite interesting, because yesterday I heard the former Minister for Transport, the member for Bateman, talk about what a great project the Berkshire interchange was, when he used the savings from the existing contract to build that new interchange.

Mr D.C. Nalder: It was part of the same project.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It was not part of the same project. When we were discussing —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: When we were discussing with my agency delivering our election commitment to save the Beeliar Wetlands and to stop Roe 8, I asked, “What is a precedent for varying the contract to other projects?” I was told, “The former Minister for Transport did it with Berkshire; that is the precedent; that is the process we followed.” It is a good outcome for WA.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is a good outcome for WA and the other side should apologise to Western Australia for all that money lost.

The most entertaining part of today is the soap opera of the opposition and the now divergence between the National Party and the Liberal Party. They were great mates when they were throwing money around the state. The Liberal Party and the National Party were great mates when there was no process and they were spending money at the bar; it did not matter. They woke up the next day, saw the credit card bill and now they are blaming each other. The National Party blames the Liberal Party and the Liberal Party blames the National Party.