

**INDIAN OCEAN DRIVE — OPENING
BICKLEY WARD PROGRESS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION — TRAIN STATIONS
OPRAH WINFREY — AUSTRALIAN VISIT**

Statement

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Transport) [10.20 pm]: I wish to briefly respond to members who have raised some issues. I think Hon Brian Ellis is right to mention that Sunday will be a cause for some celebration. It is true that some projects do endure over successive governments because of their scale. Indeed, the Indian Ocean Drive project had its origin in the Court government, and it will finish under the Barnett government.

Hon Ken Travers: And I will give credit for the first stage; I would never deny that.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I also recognise that in the early part of this decade, the Labor government also had to make priorities in accordance with the budget situations of the day. Politically, governments are judged according to the priorities that they make, and that is fair enough. Sunday will be a time to acknowledge the contributions made by the people who have built this road. It will be another day when I can remind Hon Ken Travers of some of the projects that I have commenced —

Hon Ken Travers: Name one now.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I am going to, if the member will stop interjecting. I did not interject on him. If he wants to talk about one major road project, how about a \$155 million major road project—Mandjoogordap Drive, the Mandurah entrance road, which I brought forward by more than 12 months. I doubled its scope.

Hon Ken Travers: And how are you funding that—with federal government money?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: No. The deal to make that happen involved a new proposal to the federal government to go 50–50 in the extras to do the job properly and to realise its full scope, with all the railway tunnels and the other things that were never conceived by the other government. We will open that road next month. Not only has that been brought forward a year but also it is several months ahead of the timetable. Members can argue these things back and forward, as I am sure we will, but I speak with goodwill.

In relation to the matter raised by Hon Alison Xamon, I indicate to her that a representative of one of the Liberal members was at the meeting and that person bore a detailed letter from me to the meeting with comments. I was not able to be there at short notice, but I did have a conversation with David Munut, the secretary of that association, and indicated that I would be more than happy to meet with its members on-site at some stage in the future and we will discuss the issues then. There will be more about that on another occasion.

In relation to one final matter, I have to agree with Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: we think it is a great thing. In government, we recognise that the stunning announcement about *The Oprah Winfrey Show* is a great thing. That will be a great boost for Australian tourism. I like Oprah as well, so she does not have a monopoly on that. I assure her that the Western Australian government tourism authorities will look to capitalise on the opportunities that that presents.