

MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA — CARRINGTON STREET–STIRLING HIGHWAY PROJECT

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

I refer to the Minister for Transport's answer provided in the Legislative Council last week regarding the extension of Leach Highway, and I quote —

A detailed business case will be finalised for the current project once the concept plan has been finalised.

Could the minister please point to the section in the Langoulant report where it states that it is acceptable for the Minister for Transport to agree to spend \$118 million without completing a business case let alone a concept plan?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Scarborough for that question, who may recall when this project first appeared. Does anyone remember when the project first appeared? It was in a Liberal Party budget.

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Did you do a business case when you put the \$118 million project in the budget?

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It was not?

Mrs L.M. Harvey: It is not the same project.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, Member for Scarborough!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Okay, so did you do a business case on that \$118 million?

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough, you have asked a question, listen to the answer.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I recall that this project had been worked on between state and federal governments for a number of years and that the federal Infrastructure Australia body had ticked off the project. Now we are working with the City of Fremantle and the community to deliver that project in a modified form but it is very much a similar project. Is the member for Scarborough saying she did not do a business case for that project?

Mrs L.M. Harvey: We ask the questions; you provide the answer.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Scarborough is saying there is no business case for this project even though it is the opposition's project that it put forward in 2009–10.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: No, member for Scarborough.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Member for Scarborough, for somebody in government, as part of a government that wrecked the state's finances —

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: Here we go!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Okay, I will keep going. They wrecked the state's finances. They delivered deficit after deficit and they increased debt to a record —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Have you finished chatting amongst yourselves? Minister, can you answer the question, please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: They wrecked the state's finances, delivered us the worst debt in the state's history and committed to multibillion-dollar projects or contracts with no business case.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange interjected.

The SPEAKER: You are not funny with your interjections, member. Can you just listen to what the answer is.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is the audacity of the other side and a former minister who basically rorted the road trauma trust fund for a political purpose three weeks before the election.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Rubbish! Prove it!

Point of Order

The SPEAKER: First of all, member for Scarborough, I call you to order. You had your own member on his feet for a point of order.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: The minister is clearly not answering the question she was asked.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I did.

The SPEAKER: I think she is getting there.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As I said, we are going through the process. What really bothers the other side is that all these projects are joint state–federal processes. The federal government is very comfortable with the work we are doing, working with Infrastructure Australia and the federal Department of Industry, Innovation and Science in delivering these projects hand in glove. That is how close we are working, delivering these projects to the benefit of Western Australia.

Point of Order

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: The minister has still not answered the question as it relates —

The SPEAKER: She has finished the answer, member.