

WESTPORT TASKFORCE — ROE 8 AND 9

655. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

Before I ask my question, I acknowledge on behalf of the member for Cottesloe, the students and teachers from John XXIII College in the public gallery. Also, as an old girl of Mercedes, I acknowledge the politics and —

Mr M.P. Murray: You got the “old girl” right!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Steady on!

Several members interjected.

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Member, you have more respect, and I ask you to withdraw that, please.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Touché. I withdraw. Remember the one before?

The SPEAKER: When you withdraw, you do it properly. I call you to order for the first time.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I acknowledge, as a former student of Mercedes College, the politics and law students and their teachers in the public gallery, who might be interested to know that the Minister for Police, the member for Midland, is also a graduate of Mercedes College —

The SPEAKER: And the member for Maylands.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: And the member for Maylands.

I refer to the internal chaos and division within WA Labor. Will the Premier now direct the Westport Taskforce to give proper consideration to the Roe 8 and 9 option as a simple commonsense contingency in the best interests of Western Australia?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Prior to answering the question, I also acknowledge the students in the gallery today, in particular the students from Kingsway Christian College in the member for Girrawheen’s electorate. I saw some boys and girls from Brunswick Junction Primary School down the back; I would like to acknowledge them. It is a privilege to be in the Speaker’s gallery. To the students from John XXIII College and Mercedes College, on behalf of the government, I welcome you all to Parliament and I hope you enjoy your visit here.

The Westport Taskforce is undertaking its role very seriously. The government has delivered on what it said it would do prior to the election—that is, to come up with a long-term plan for freight and trade for Western Australia. The task force has come up with five final options, which are under consideration. It will bring down its final report later this year and, obviously, the government will consider those matters at that point. Part of the task force publication that was handed down the other week analysed the issues surrounding the Roe 8 and 9 corridor. I want to quote a report in the *Westport Beacon* —

In Westport’s view, due to the cumulative impact of major social and economic impediments, Fremantle would have rated poorly in the multi-criteria analysis on the long-list of options, even if Roe 8/9 were included in the supply chain designs.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my left!

Mr M. McGOWAN: It continues —

As such, **Fremantle ... would not have made the shortlist of options, even with Roe 8/9 considered.**

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members. You asked a question; listen to the answer.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It continues —

Through the MCA process, the Fremantle options were compared against Kwinana options that offered far superior outcomes in relation to the key assessment criteria:

- Kwinana offers better road and rail corridors for freight;
- Kwinana is a safer option for road users, as it will provide better separation between heavy freight vehicles and passenger vehicles;
- Kwinana will improve social outcomes for the community by moving freight out of urban areas;
- Kwinana offers better options for scalability and future-proofing; and
- Kwinana has more scope for industrial and economic development.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, you asked a question. You might not like the answer but you are getting it. Member for Carine, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It continues —

Further to this, Roe 8/9 is a more expensive and environmentally-impactful road corridor than the Leach Highway upgrade option that was used in the multi-criteria analysis. Additionally, the \$2.3 billion of uncommitted, unfunded road projects listed on page 4 would still need to be built in addition to Roe 8/9. To that end, including Roe 8/9 in the technical studies may have potentially caused the Fremantle options to score even lower in the MCA.

If members read the analysis done by the Westport Taskforce, they will find the answer that they are looking for.