

BEELIAR WETLANDS — ROE HIGHWAY STAGE 8

246. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Planning:

My question without notice is to the Minister for Planning.

Mr J.J.M. Bowler: Look at me; look at me! You're a damn hypocrite! You know that, don't you?

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Kalgoorlie! The member for Kalgoorlie may have some issues with people in this place. We all have issues occasionally with people in this place. I have already been on my feet once today asking that everybody in this place respect everybody else in this place. I am asking the member for Kalgoorlie to do that.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr M. McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, I assume that *Hansard* probably recorded the interjection of the member for Kalgoorlie, and I assumed that you were going to ask him to withdraw the language that he used, which was unparliamentary. I ask him to withdraw.

The SPEAKER: I heard the words he used. I can jump to a lot of conclusions about whom he might have been using those words towards. I heard the word "hypocrite" used. I have asked the member to respect this place. If he chooses to break that respect in future, there will be certain ways in which I can deal with him. I am not going to ask the member for Kalgoorlie to withdraw those words because I do not know whom they were directed at. I can guess. My eyes were on the member for Gosnells, who was on his feet seeking the call. That is as far as I am going to take this process. I think the member for Kalgoorlie should know by now that what he did was inappropriate, but I am not going to ask him to withdraw at this point.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: My question without notice is to the —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members to my right!

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I refer the minister to his government's allocation in the midyear financial review of \$20 million for the construction of Roe Highway stage 8 through the Beelihar wetlands.

- (1) Why does the minister's government persist in its intention to destroy the unique and environmentally significant Beelihar wetlands?

Point of Order

Dr K.D. HAMES: On this side, we had difficulty hearing because of some interjections from the other side. We did not hear to whom the question was directed. I wonder whether the member would repeat it.

The SPEAKER: For the benefit of everybody in this place, I wonder whether the member for Gosnells would start the question from the beginning.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: My question without notice is to the Minister for Planning. I refer the minister to his government's allocation in the midyear financial review of \$20 million for the construction of Roe Highway stage 8 through the Beelihar wetlands.

- (1) Why does the minister's government persist in its intention to destroy the unique and environmentally significant Beelihar wetlands?
- (2) What planning imperatives and rationale justify the destruction of this biologically diverse habitat?
- (3) Has the minister read the Beelihar Regional Park proposed final management plan 2005-14, and does the minister endorse its findings?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

- (1)-(3) I thank the member for the question. The raising of the issue of Roe Highway stage 8 reminds me of the act of gross planning vandalism by the previous government, and the previous Minister for Planning and Infrastructure in particular, in deleting from the metropolitan region scheme the reservation, which had been there for 30 years and more, of the Fremantle eastern bypass. That was a gross act of planning vandalism, and nothing more. What is more, I am sure that privately the member for Armadale agrees with that, because long-term planning had been in place under Liberal-National, Liberal-Country Party and Labor governments for 30 years or more that Roe Highway stage 8 would have linked into. We

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Mr Chris Tallentire; Speaker; Mr Mark McGowan; Dr Kim Hames; Mr John Day

have seen the destruction of a long-term plan for good freight and other transport networks around the Perth metropolitan area, which are so important for the economic development of Western Australia.

The reservation for Roe Highway stage 8, as I understand it, is still there. There are certainly environmental issues to be addressed, and possibly significant environmental issues that need to be addressed, before stage 8 of Roe Highway is constructed. All those issues will be considered. I think the member would be aware of the planning study regarding the future options for Fremantle ports, which is underway at the moment, and in particular where container freight should be exported from and imported into in the long-term future. That study is underway at the moment, and all that bears, of course, upon the transport routes into the southern metropolitan area. What happens to Roe Highway stage 8 in the future, and, indeed, the other major transport routes to the south of that area, is, in part, going to be determined by where freight is exported from and imported into, whether the focus still be on Fremantle inner harbour or whether it be on the so-called outer harbour project. All those issues will be weighed up, and before there is any decision to go ahead with the construction of Roe stage 8, all those issues, including the impact on the —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Mandurah!

Mr J.H.D. DAY: All those issues, including the impact on the wetlands, will be very carefully considered, in particular by the Minister for Environment, by me as Minister for Planning, by the Minister for Transport, and, indeed, by cabinet as a whole.