

JOBS — ROE 8 — FEDERAL FUNDING

524. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to claims made in this place yesterday that the flawed and destructive Roe 8 project would create 10 000 jobs, could be built for free, and would apparently enable the federal government to meet its targets under the Paris climate agreement. Can the minister outline to the house how redirecting federal funding from Roe 8 has created real jobs for Western Australians, and advise the house of the veracity and accuracy of the other various claims made about Roe 8?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Thornlie for that question. As everyone knows, we are getting on with the job and building roads around Western Australia, reducing congestion and improving safety, whether it be in regional WA, the northern suburbs, the southern suburbs or the eastern suburbs—across the state. Last night we heard some extraordinary claims. There was one claim that I have to agree with. That was from the member for Carine.

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Two votes! We learnt a couple of things yesterday. We know that he voted for himself, which was a positive step.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Minister! Members, please, we will have some silence. Remember that any calls to order after midnight last night are still in effect!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: And, of course, it is still the member for Girrawheen's birthday, too! We said happy birthday to her at 12.30 last night and it is still her birthday.

The member for Carine made some comments. He said that massive road infrastructure projects were happening in the eastern suburbs and the northern suburbs. I agree with the member for Carine. We are pumping those road projects through the suburbs. Let us go through them. In regional Western Australia, we are working on the Great Northern Highway, the South Coast Highway and Great Eastern Highway. In the southern suburbs, we are working on freeway widening, new bridges and new widenings all through the area. In the northern suburbs, there is the Wanneroo Road project and the Mitchell Freeway widening. There are a number of projects in the northern suburbs. Of course, in the eastern suburbs, we have the Roe Highway–Kalamunda Road project, which will commence shortly; the Reid Highway duplication; and the completion of NorthLink WA. There are projects across the state!

We know that the only project members of the opposition care about is the one that would have gone through the Beelihar wetlands. That is the only project they care about. Last night we heard some extraordinary claims. The member for Riverton said that the project would not cost us anything—that Roe 8 would be a free project. By the end of the night, I think the member for Nedlands said that it would make us money. The member for Scarborough said that we were going to lose 10 000 jobs by not going ahead with the project, even though all those people are already employed all across the state on other projects. The key claim was made by the member for Nedlands, who said that building Roe 8 and Roe 9 would help the Morrison government deliver on its Paris Agreement commitments on greenhouse emissions. Genius!

Roe 8 is like a genie. It can be all things to anyone. You keep rubbing that little bottle, and it comes up with solutions to everything. We are delivering real projects on the ground around the state, reducing congestion and improving safety. We are getting on with the job.