

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in cycling infrastructure, which includes \$134 million worth of works over the next four years.

Can the minister update the house on how this government is fixing the gaps in Perth's cycling network that were left by the previous Liberal–National government, including the notorious Grant Street dead end in Cottesloe?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, especially those sitting on three!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Gosnells for that question and I want to thank him for and acknowledge the work he is doing with the cycling community of WA. He is a passionate advocate for cycling in WA. He is one of the biggest supporters—I will not do any lycra jokes because I know they will get us all into trouble—and advocates for cycling in WA. He is working for the government and working with groups, particularly, in WA, and with industry to make sure that what we deliver is a priority for the industry. When we won government, we met with the cycling industry and they highlighted, as did the Auditor General in his report, the gaps in our cycling network. One of the key issues raised by the Auditor General and reinforced by the cycling community was the significant gaps in our cycling network and about having a program to try to address that. Fortunately, as part of our first budget, we were able to allocate funds over a time to address the gaps to encourage cycling and to make sure we address some of the most dangerous areas across the network. In the northern suburbs, as many of my northern suburbs friends will testify, the issues relating to the path along the freeway are all priorities, and the Grant Street project was one of the biggest priorities put forward by the cycling community.

It is good that it is a Labor government addressing the concerns in the western suburbs. I have had lots of feedback from people in Cottesloe not worried about the toilets but interested in the fact that this government is getting on with the job of delivering safe infrastructure. I refer to the former member for Cottesloe, who in 2004 highlighted —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: That was 12 years ago!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: This is the point! The former member for Cottesloe is reported to have said —

The Perth-Fremantle dual use path comes to a grinding halt at the intersection of Curtin Avenue and Grant Street forcing the merger of cyclists ...

“It is essential that this path be extended as soon as possible to avoid the inherent conflict and potential for loss of life.

We know that there have been accidents since that time. This government is getting on with it and is fixing up cyclepaths across the network. They are seen as a priority. The government is working with all councils and the cycling community to make it a safer place for our cyclists across WA.