

ROE HIGHWAY STAGES 8 AND 9

**605. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. What is the Premier going to do to address the significant congestion issues on Leach Highway over the next five to 10 years, in the absence of building Roe 8 and 9?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I am certainly not going to put a toll in place. The Leader of the Opposition's plan, as we know, is to put a toll in place, because she said it! Under the Liberals and Nationals, Western Australia, for the first time ever, will have toll roads. We know where a toll road will lead. It will lead to ordinary people paying tolls on their vehicles. That is the natural outcome. The commonwealth has \$1.2 billion—I think it is called a contingency. I would like to see it spent on some other priorities around Western Australia; for instance, savings lives on regional roads. We have a program that the commonwealth could fund to do some of the treatments on the edges, some of the fencing, some of the audible edging and the like around regional roads, and no doubt save many lives out there. What I found a little strange was the Pastoralists and Graziers Association saying we should spend \$1.2 billion on a few kilometres of road in the middle of the city, whereas the Labor Party is out there saying, "Let's save lives on regional roads." I think the Pastoralists and Graziers Association might want to consider what is in the interests of people in the regions. I think that money would be far better off solving some of those issues and saving lives in the wheatbelt, the great southern, the south west, the north of the state or the goldfields, or wherever it might be. That amount of money could certainly go a long way towards saving the lives of regional Western Australians.