

VALUE CAPTURE OPPORTUNITIES

189. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to this government's commitment to pursue value capture as a source of funding, which is encouraged and supported by the federal Liberal government. What opportunities exist to deliver value capture opportunities in WA?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question. As I have said numerous times, we took the issue of value capture to the election. That issue was interesting at the time because, of course, value capture is a mechanism that is supported by the federal government to help fund infrastructure into the future around Australia. We are looking at it for a range of new stations around the metropolitan area. Members will remember that the Liberal Party ran a very big scare campaign on this issue. It put leaflets in everyone's letterboxes, stating that we would introduce a new tax on people's homes. Everyone remembers the Liberal Party's election campaign launch—do members remember that?—that put Western Australians off Daft Punk for generations to come! That launch makes us cringe every time we hear Daft Punk on the radio. We remember that campaign launch. Another thing from that campaign launch that makes me cringe, but not as much as the dancing, was the attack on value capture and the fact that a massive scare campaign was launched against value capture. I cringed not only when I thought that they would try to do something like that, but also when the hypocrisy came, because departments were working on the value capture model. The value capture model was being implemented throughout Scarborough as the member for Scarborough stood up and launched an attack on value capture. The campaign against it was so strange.

It is very interesting now because the federal government wants value capture and is supporting infrastructure projects that have that concept. We know the federal finance minister does. The member for Churchlands said yesterday that the WA Liberal Party does not support value capture and, when the question was asked today, he said that the WA Liberal Party does not support value capture. I was surprised that the Leader of the Opposition, only a couple of weeks ago, stated in this place —

For the record, I know that the Minister for Transport keeps saying that we were against value capture, but we were not.

That is what the Leader of the Opposition said. I can see opposition members now discussing who said what. It is something that the state absolutely needed to do. That is what the Leader of the Opposition said. Now there is an absolute policy difference among opposition members. We saw it in government; it made it up as it went along. There is a leadership team and a wannabe leadership team. That is what is happening on the other side. We can see it already. There is the leadership team, the wannabe leadership team and every other member who is happy to be there—the “thank God we made it” team! That is what the opposition is currently. They did not have a consistent policy in government and that is how they tore the finances to shreds, and they do not have a consistent policy in opposition.