

CORONAVIRUS — ECONOMIC RECOVERY — TRANSPORT PROJECTS

**790. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's focus on keeping Western Australia safe and strong through its record investment in transport infrastructure projects. Can the minister update the house on this government's investment in vital road infrastructure in the northern suburbs, including the new northern suburbs smart freeway, and can the minister outline to the house how this investment is supporting local jobs and local businesses?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Kingsley for that question.

This state budget provides for record investment of \$11.8 billion for transport infrastructure over the next four years, including \$2.4 billion for road infrastructure. Of course, a highlight is \$100 million for the new Mitchell Freeway smart freeway project. This will help reduce congestion and improve safety along the freeway. We have seen success on the Kwinana Freeway with motorists saving, on average, 10 minutes a day during peak hour. This will be rolled out along the Mitchell Freeway for 16 ramps. We have seen that the technology works, and Western Australian commuters and drivers have responded positively to this initiative.

There are many other road projects across the state and across the northern suburbs, including the Yanchep rail extension, the Mitchell Freeway extension to Romeo Road, the Mitchell Freeway Hodges Drive to Hepburn Avenue widening project, the Stephenson Avenue project and all the other works. I want to also highlight the Wanneroo Road–Ocean Reef Road interchange, which I was happy to open yesterday with some federal Senators, and the Wanneroo Road–Joondalup Drive project.

Many of these projects have not been supported by members opposite; they have not supported road projects in the northern suburbs. To give an example, when work on the Wanneroo Road–Joondalup Drive project started, the shadow Minister for Transport said that the government's decision to continue with that congestion reduction project was a reckless use of taxpayers' funding. The opposition was opposed to congestion-busting projects in the northern suburbs.

Unfortunately, the shadow minister is not here, but I am happy to see both the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer in the chamber at the same time! It would be the first time in a couple of days that they have both been in this place at the same time. Unfortunately, as the Treasurer highlighted, the Leader of the Opposition was late after having her photo taken on the front steps; yesterday, I saw the shadow Treasurer having his photo taken on the front steps as well, so I do not know what is happening there! Yesterday the shadow Treasurer was having his photo taken, and today the Leader of the Opposition was having her photo taken on the front steps. It is obviously a photo-op!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** There was also the infamous interview on 6PR late on a Tuesday night, when the shadow Treasurer was asked whether the Leader of the Opposition had his support. He said —

Oh, look, you know, I don't see any change at this point in time.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members to my right!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** This opposition is so all over the place that we do not see the shadow Treasurer and the Leader of the Opposition in the chamber at the same time because they are having a photo competition on the steps of Parliament House. This is a weird time in WA politics, but we are getting on with it. We are out there, delivering record projects across Western Australia, and the Western Australian community is thankful to have a government that is focused on keeping them safe in such difficult times.