

HIGH STREET–STIRLING HIGHWAY INTERSECTION — TRAFFIC NOISE IMPACT

257. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

My question is to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Transport.

- (1) In reference to noise testing planned for the High Street–Stirling Highway upgrade project, will the minister extend testing to include the Duke Street area?
- (2) At what noise levels are noise walls justified?
- (3) Will the government ensure that modelling for the upgrade project includes an assessment of the impact that the predicted doubling of truck movements on this section of Stirling Highway will have on surrounding neighbourhoods?
- (4) Will the minister also require testing of air quality near High Street and Duke Street, as residents are very concerned for their health due to increasing levels of emissions from diesel trucks?

Hon HELEN MORTON: I am very sorry that the member has asked the question, which I have absolutely no paperwork on. I do not even recall having signed off on that particular question today. If it comes through before the end of question time, which looks rather doubtful, I will endeavour to get it for the member. Nevertheless, if it comes through at any other time, I will do my best to get it to the member.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Mr President —

The PRESIDENT: Is this a point of order, or is the minister asking a question?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I do not have any questions to ask today, Mr President, but I think I might have an answer. Was this a question that was directed to the Minister for Transport about the Duke Street area and noise walls and what have you?

Hon Lynn MacLaren: Yes, sorry; it was to the Minister for Finance representing Minister for Transport.

The PRESIDENT: That solves the mystery!

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I am from the government, Mr President. I am here to help.

The PRESIDENT: Seeing it is the minister's birthday, that is only appropriate.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. Main Roads WA advises —

- (1) Although Duke Street is outside of the High Street upgrade project area, in light of concerns raised by some Duke Street residents, Minister Buswell has asked Main Roads to expand the scope of the project to include consideration of the provision of noise walls.
- (2) The noise level objective for this project is currently being assessed by the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- (3) Noise modelling for the project will include traffic volumes and movements based on the existing and predicted levels within the project area, including freight vehicles.
- (4) Ambient air quality monitoring is not part of the scope of the project.