

INFRASTRUCTURE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

57. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Premier:

As a former town planner, I have a particular interest in this issue. I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to delivering long-term, strategic and coordinated infrastructure planning for Western Australia.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house how Infrastructure Western Australia will provide confidence to business, help drive the economy and create jobs?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house how business and industry have responded to the government's commitment to establishing this long overdue Infrastructure WA?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Kingsley for the question. Prior to answering, I take the opportunity, on behalf of the Minister for Health, to recognise the presence of participants in the WA Country Health Service future leaders program, who are in the gallery this afternoon. I wish them well in their careers in the health system.

- (1)–(2) Infrastructure is one of the important components of driving our economy and it is important to creating jobs. That is why for many years business and industry in the state have been calling out for a long-term strategic infrastructure plan. We committed to putting that plan in place in 2012, before the 2013 election, and again, over the course of the last term of Parliament, prior to the 2017 election. This week we will introduce legislation to create Infrastructure WA. It will provide independent expert advice to government on what infrastructure we need to meet our long-term needs as a state, the transparent and accountable provision of information, and coordinated and strategic planning.

It will address the mistakes that were in place under the last government of delays, cost blowouts, cancellations and poor outcomes. As the Inquiry into Government Programs and Projects highlighted, because of the lack of a comprehensive and a long-term infrastructure plan —

Too many projects have been undertaken on an ad hoc basis and without adequate planning.

Infrastructure WA will provide business with certainty and will help develop a pipeline of investment. It will help coordinate applications to Infrastructure Australia. I am very pleased to announce that its first role will be to develop a 20-year infrastructure plan for Western Australia. The interim chair will be Mr John Langoulant AO, a respected Western Australian with public sector —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: He has public sector and private sector experience.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central!

Mr M. McGOWAN: John Gelavis, from the Master Builders Association had this to say about it today —

This ... allows industry to plan ahead on the jobs and skills which will be required on infrastructure projects ...

...

The establishment of Infrastructure WA is a confidence boost for the construction industry ...

Sandra Brewer from The Property Council, who members might be familiar with, stated —

The creation of an independent body —

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I like quoting Sandra Brewer.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I like quoting Rick Newnham and Sandra Brewer—I like quoting them!

The creation of an independent body to identify and prioritise critical infrastructure was the top recommendation in our 2017 state election policy platform, and we congratulate —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! On top of all the echo. The member for Scarborough says “outer harbour” so then the member for North West Central says “outer harbour.” Luckily, there is no-one behind you. Let us get on with it.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Sandra Brewer stated —

The creation of an independent body to identify and prioritise critical infrastructure was the top recommendation in our 2017 state election policy platform, and we congratulate the Premier and his Government for delivering on their promise.

The RAC's Terry Agnew is a great fellow.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! This is good news.

Mr M. McGOWAN: He stated —

Infrastructure WA will play a crucial role in ensuring decision-making is evidence-based and reflects a long-term view of our State's needs ...

Tanya Steinbeck from the Urban Development Institute of Australia, if members remember it, stated —

... we are pleased to see that one of the key objectives of IWA will be the development of a 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy...

We are the last state—the last of the mainland states, at least—to introduce a state infrastructure body. We are very proud to be taking this important step to create this independent body. It is important for jobs and infrastructure and the economy. I look forward to all members supporting it.