

ROE HIGHWAY STAGE 8 — EXTENSION

1099. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the proposed extension to Roe Highway stage 8.

Hon Kate Doust interjected.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: The member should listen in; she will be interested in this.

- (1) What benefits will this new road bring to people in the south metropolitan area?
- (2) How many people have been employed in developing the project to date and how many are likely to be employed during construction?

Hon Kate Doust interjected.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I am eager to learn about this project, so I will get on to part (3) of the question.

- (3) How many houses will be resumed and torn down to make way for this freeway extension?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Let us hear the answer.

Hon JIM CHOWN: Main Roads Western Australia advises —

- (1) Roe 8 is a long-planned part of Perth's strategic freight network. Upon completion, it will complement the Gateway WA and NorthLink WA projects to form part of an 85-kilometre freight route from Muchea to Fremantle. This will improve access to the existing harbour and provide an important connection to a future outer harbour in Cockburn Sound via Stock Road.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I might ask the parliamentary secretary to start his answer again if he is continually interrupted. Let the parliamentary secretary answer the question.

Hon JIM CHOWN: I shall start again, Mr President, because I am sure some members of the house did not quite get the first answer.

- (1) Roe 8 is a long-planned part of Perth's strategic freight network. Upon completion it will complement the Gateway WA and NorthLink WA projects to form part of an 85-kilometre freight route from Muchea to Fremantle. This will improve access to the existing harbour and provide an important connection to a future outer harbour in Cockburn Sound via Stock Road. However, Roe 8 is not just about the movement of freight. The project will redistribute some 6 900 trucks and 74 000 light vehicles from existing routes. This traffic shift will significantly reduce congestion and improve safety outcomes across the entire southern road network, and will mean people will be less likely to rat-run past homes, local parks and schools. A dedicated southern access to the Murdoch activity centre will ease pressure on the South Street–Murdoch Drive intersection and support the growing business and residential community in that location.
- (2) Accurate records are not readily available from the South Metro Connect exercise. However, it can be estimated that 30 to 45 people have been directly involved in project development activities since 2009. It is expected the project will create 400 to 500 direct jobs and thousands of indirect job opportunities during —

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Keep going, parliamentary secretary, or have you finished?

Hon JIM CHOWN: No, I have not finished. There is more.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! It has been said before, but the member in his capacity as parliamentary secretary is required to provide an answer to a question. You may not like the answer, you may not agree with it, but you have to hear it.

Hon JIM CHOWN: I will start the last sentence again.

It is expected the project will create 400 to 500 direct jobs and thousands of indirect job opportunities during the construction phase of Roe 8.

(3) Nil.