

EELUP ROUNDABOUT — FLYOVER CONSTRUCTION

473. Hon ADELE FARINA to the Minister for Transport:

I again refer to the “Roads to Export: Bunbury Infrastructure Investment Plan” released by the South West Development Commission last week, which states that the Eelup Rotary upgrade, including construction of a flyover and a smaller roundabout, is expected to cost \$110 million and is currently programmed for completion in 2013. I also refer to the minister’s answer to my question without notice 122.

- (1) Is the project currently programmed for completion in 2013, as stated in the South West Development Commission plan?
- (2) If yes, how can this project be completed in 2013 if only \$16 million has been allocated to the project in the 2010–11 budget and the forward estimates to 2013–14?
- (3) Has the government made a decision to construct the flyover and a smaller roundabout at the Eelup Rotary?
- (4) Is the minister now in a position to release the concept plans for the Eelup Rotary upgrade?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN replied:

The circulation of this “Roads to Export: Bunbury Infrastructure Investment Plan” is certainly very broad. A member for the South West even has a subscription.

Hon Ken Travers: Minister, I think it’s fantastic that members show an interest in these matters.

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN: But they should not necessarily place too much reliance —

Hon Adele Farina: On a government document; that’s right!

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN: — on everything that they read in the papers and journals that are provided to them.

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(5) The previous budget allocation of \$30 million was insufficient to construct the ultimate flyover treatment at this stage. Furthermore, the progression of stage 1 of the Bunbury outer ring-road and stage 2 of the port access road in the short term are expected to impact traffic patterns at Eelup and will need to be considered as part of further modelling work on the flyover. Due to these factors, the timing of a decision on the construction of the flyover has been delayed.

In the meantime, I have asked Main Roads WA to progress the development of an interim treatment, which could be delivered in the short term and would achieve real safety benefits at Eelup much earlier than would otherwise be possible. As a result, Main Roads is currently investigating a design aimed at reducing the size of the current roundabout, one of the factors contributing to the crashes occurring at this site, and possible inclusion of traffic signals on the approaches to improve the safety and efficiency of vehicle movements. This interim measure will form part of the flyover project and is in essence stage 1 of the project.

Funding of stage 1 was included in the 2010–11 budget and I expect the works to commence in the 2011 calendar year.