

TONKIN HIGHWAY STAGE 3

440. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Transport:

The most important infrastructure issue according to the people of Byford is the government's failure to fund the Tonkin Highway extension. Can the minister explain to the people of Darling Range why she has refused to fund —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, I call you to order for the first time. Start the question again, please.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Can the minister explain to the people of Darling Range why the government has refused to fund the Tonkin Highway extension in the last two budgets, and why it has failed to fund the extension given the commonwealth has already provided funding for half the project?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Scarborough for that question.

Of course we are committed to the Tonkin Highway extension. Of course we are, because we made it a priority when we won government, and of course the federal government came to us and is helping us fund that project. Do you know what the people of Darling Range wonder? Why, for eight and a half years, the former government did nothing on it! The former government did nothing on it! Eight and a half years, and the former government did nothing!

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The former government did not get one cent from the commonwealth! It did not contribute —

Dr M.D. Nahan: Show me the money!

The SPEAKER: Okay, I will show you the third call to order, Leader of the Opposition.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: They want to know why during a by-election the Liberal Party rocks up and says, "There's 40 000 people here, but there's no infrastructure"! The former government was in power for eight and a half years, and they wonder why —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman! Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Bateman just said the former government prioritised all that other infrastructure above the Tonkin Highway extension. The former government sent out Tony Simpson, it sent out —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The former government sent out Tony Simpson to head a working group to come forward with a business case—it never progressed it! In eight and a half years, the former government did nothing. That is what the people of Darling Range know —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman, it is not a question-and-answer session. The minister is on her feet; she is the only one who should be talking.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We went to the commonwealth and got funding. We would like to see some more —

Dr M.D. Nahan: They told you.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are on your last chance.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Leader of the Opposition, despite numerous motions in this place, has not articulated one commitment the former government delivered to the people of Darling Range in eight and a half years. It did nothing. Today, the performances of opposition members on the Railway (METRONET) Bill 2018 show that they cannot be trusted to deliver infrastructure to the outer suburbs.

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: You cannot trust them.

Mr D.T. Redman: Answer the question and demonstrate your credentials.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yesterday in the hills we saw some real primary producers, as opposed to the National Party here. We saw people who actually work on and make their living out of the land, member for Warren–Blackwood.

Mr D.T. Redman: That’s right; you don’t remember. Get a bit of instruction from behind.

The SPEAKER: You might think you run the chamber, member for Warren–Blackwood, but you do not, and you are on your second call. You still might be going home early.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I do not remember your name because you are so irrelevant now in modern politics.

We are committed to Tonkin Highway. The previous government did nothing for eight and a half years, and no-one believes them on anything in relation to infrastructure in the outer suburbs.