

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS — FEDERAL FUNDING

**1094. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unrelenting fight for a greater share of commonwealth funding for its job-creating, economic-boosting transport infrastructure projects.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how this government's approach to securing federal funding is delivering more investments and more jobs for Western Australians, including those in my electorate of Kingsley?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this compares with the approach taken by the previous Liberal–National government?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for that question. Of course, the member for Kingsley has been fighting for the road project from Hodges Drive to Hepburn Avenue. The member for Kingsley has been a strong advocate and fighting for this project.

- (1)–(2) Last week, the state government unveiled its latest range of new commitments to Western Australia—joint funding arrangements between the state and the commonwealth for new road and rail projects in WA. One of the most significant, of course, is the Mitchell Freeway widening from Hodges Drive to Hepburn Avenue. The cost of the project is \$76 million, with over 500 jobs to be created. This is as a result of negotiations between the state and the commonwealth. There is the Great Northern Highway project; projects to try to reduce some of the congestion at the Wanneroo Road–Morley Drive intersection. We have projects on Great Eastern Highway and some planning around the Reid Highway–Erindale Road intersection. Of course, another train station is to be added to the network.

We go in and we try to secure the best funds we can for Western Australia. Together, with the new projects, we have been able to negotiate a bringing forward of funds to ensure that the time frame that we put forward can be delivered for a range of other road projects, such as the Bunbury Outer Ring Road and the Albany ring-road, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Hear, hear!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** To be honest, we were going at 100 kilometres an hour trying to secure the planning and the environmental processes, and, as a result, we now have the full funding to be able to deliver those projects to the time that we set out. There is Karratha–Tom Price stage 4, the Newman to Katherine corridor upgrade, the Port Augusta to Perth corridor and, of course, the Tonkin Highway gap—another key project. This is yet another example of the state government getting on with the job. We are out there delivering projects, creating jobs and making sure that WA is at the table getting as much money as we can to create jobs and reduce congestion in WA.