

ALBANY RING-ROAD

Statement by Member for Scarborough

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.56 pm]: The Albany ring-road is an important project for Albany that has been championed by Rick Wilson, MP, the federal member for O'Connor. However, the project has been the subject of blatant politicisation by state transport minister Rita Saffioti. The state government committed only planning money to the project in its last two budgets, with funding for the actual project being pushed past July 2019 into 2021. The minister has announced and re-announced ad nauseum that the Labor government is committed to the project. The member for Albany said on 30 April 2018 that the business case for the project was to be submitted the following Friday. The reality is that the business case was submitted on 2 February 2019—22 months after Labor took office—no doubt to avoid embarrassment at the Labor Party love-in in Albany later that month. But the embarrassment continues, with the February 2019 business case being returned by Infrastructure Australia as it was incomplete. IA requires a phase 4 business case before funding can flow.

Instead of criticising Rick Wilson for successfully securing \$140 million in funding for this project, the minister should focus on producing an acceptable business case to IA and liaise with it to bring the funding forward, as she has bragged about doing with other priority projects. The state Labor government has been awash with federal funding since taking office. The truth is, it chose not to prioritise Albany over other metropolitan projects.