

FREMANTLE OUTER HARBOUR — TASK FORCE

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

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister now defer her plans for this expensive and unnecessary outer harbour given that her own task force member has pointed out that Fremantle port has sufficient capacity, and last night's federal budget retained funding for the completion of Roe 8 and 9, a shovel-ready project that will create jobs, reduce congestion and make roads safer?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I am not sure whether we all missed what happened in March last year. Does anyone remember what happened at the March election? We committed to redirect funding for Roe 8 and 9 to congestion-busting projects across the suburbs. We outlined a range of short-term measures —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, please! Minister, talk through the Chair, please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We outlined a range of measures—for example, increasing the subsidy for freight on rail. That is working to get a higher percentage of our freight on rail. We are undertaking road projects to Fremantle. Those projects were never delivered by the previous government. They were in its budget but it never got around to doing them over the past eight years. I think the member is incorrect about the role of Christy Cain. We said that we would establish a task force that will go through and undertake a full analysis of the land and rail transport mechanisms, the financing and commercial structure of the new port, and the environmental assessments. All these issues will be thoroughly assessed. It is in constant consultation with the community and key stakeholders. That is a good policy and that is what we are sticking with.