

WESTPORT TASKFORCE — ROE 8 AND 9

706. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I refer to the Westport Taskforce report that says it will take 10 years to build the outer harbour. What is the Premier's plan to deal with the ever-worsening congestion and road safety in the southern suburbs in the meantime?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Firstly, can I express my appreciation to Nicole Lockwood and the team who have produced the work on Westport. I thank them for their comprehensive analysis of the issues. The report has recommended that five options be considered. Those options will be considered for the remainder of this year and, ultimately, the report will make some final recommendations after that. Obviously, the government will await that point in time before making a final decision on what the preferred course is. I would like to commend Westport for looking at the issues comprehensively.

In the meantime, of course, we are doing all sorts of things. The upgrade to High Street is one thing that was never done by any former government, and we are doing it. The new traffic bridge across the river is another thing we are doing.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Mr M. McGOWAN: As the member might recall, when we came into office, I went to speak to then Prime Minister Turnbull and said that spending \$1.6 billion on a single piece of road of about 10 kilometres—maybe a bit shorter—that stopped three kilometres short of Fremantle port is a waste of money, and the last government did not do it. We got that money and spent it on multiple projects across Perth and the regions, such as the widening of Armadale Road and the Armadale Road bridge.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Vasse!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Also, there is the widening of the freeway, the smart freeways, and the improvements to Karel Avenue—all over the place.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse!

Mr M. McGOWAN: On top of that, we are better supporting freight on rail.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I call you to order for the first time. I give only three warnings.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Now we have had this huge increase in container traffic on rail. It was back at about nine per cent when members opposite were in office.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member is so animated these days! I have not seen the member this animated since he challenged Colin Barnett for the leadership!

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: One of the reasons the member challenged Colin Barnett for the leadership was his distress —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Premier, if you are going to give it, you have to take it. Member for Bateman, I call you to order for the first time. I warned you three times.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is a very wise ruling. One of the reasons the member challenged Colin Barnett was his distress at the fact that in eight and a half years, his government did not commit to or build the Roe 8 project.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: There are multiple things that this government is doing to deal with freight in the city.

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Fremantle!

Mr M. McGOWAN: There are huge increases in freight on rail—something ignored by members opposite when they were in government. In fact, members opposite ignored rail very comprehensively. They were comprehensive ignorers of rail across the state. That is what members opposite were and that is what they remain. They remain opposed to all the rail lines that we have funded, committed to and will shortly commence.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Members opposite hate Metronet and all the things we are doing. I note that last night Dale Alcock endorsed Metronet and said that we needed more rail. He said we needed to build these rail lines. He supports our plans for rail and more density. Members opposite oppose density and rail. In fact, it is hard to think of anything they support apart from toll roads. Toll roads get a tick from the Liberal Party.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my right!

Mr M. McGOWAN: This government has put in place all sorts of initiatives to comprehensively deal with the situation we face, considering we inherited a situation about which the last government had done nothing.