

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT) RECURRENT 2011–12 BILL 2011
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Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [7.01 pm]: Before private members’ business I was talking about the need for improvement to the roads throughout my area—in particular Gnangara Road—and I think I was talking about Lord Street and West Swan Road and how I believe something needs to be done very soon to try to alleviate the pressures on those roads. One option is to fast-track Henley Brook Avenue, which is the extension of an existing road, but it is a proposed new through road through the major housing developments. That will take a lot of traffic off Lord Street and West Swan Road, and it will service those people who live in not only my electorate, but also the member for Swan Hills’ electorate. I was pleased to hear today that the Lord Street–Reid Highway intersection will be improved—member for Swan Hills, is that right—by the installation of traffic lights.

Mr F.A. Alban: Yes, traffic lights.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes, traffic lights will be installed at that intersection, but the widening of intersection has not occurred and funding has not been allocated for it in the budget.

Mr F.A. Alban: Not yet.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is good to hear that traffic lights are to be installed at that intersection because it is a very, very dangerous intersection. I understand that Main Roads Western Australia is undertaking a detailed planning study into the cost of widening that section of Reid Highway; it is a major issue for the people who live in the area. Reid Highway should be a dual carriageway because it is a major highway and a major east–west corridor.

I want to quickly touch on a few issues relating to Ballajura, one of which I will raise as a grievance tomorrow. I want to talk about the sand bund that extends along Hepburn Avenue and the issues around law and order and its visual impact—eyesore issues—that it is raising for local residents. The sand bund was, I think, built in 2009–10 along the Hepburn Avenue extension. The community was surveyed at the time about the sand bund to ascertain whether people supported it, but it was described to local residents as having heavy vegetation that would stop people from standing on it, and that it would also be visually quite attractive; it is nothing like that. It is a terrible, terrible eyesore, and it has given rise to a lot of law and order issues around the area because rather than create a barrier for would-be criminals, they can actually stand on the sand bund and look into people’s backyards and houses. I have taken the issue up with the City of Swan and we are currently surveying local residents to find out what they believe should be the future of that sand bund. We have had an excellent number of surveys returned because people are very, very concerned about it, and we will be taking that issue further.

The issue I will raise tomorrow is the buffer around Mirrabooka water treatment plant and its impact on a proposed aged-care facility in Ballajura. Another issue relevant to my electorate is that of Ballajura Police Station, which was closed a number of years ago now. Again, this is important for the Ballajura community because it misses its permanent police presence. I am glad the Minister for Police is in this place; it is a continuing issue and people want a permanent police presence. The police station was closed without consultation, and unlike some of the other changes happening within the police system around the area in that suburban stations have been closed and a hub has been created to replace those stations, none of that happened. A hub station was not created after the closure of Ballajura Police Station; it was basically closed and people now have to go to Kiara.

I cannot finish today without talking a little about the Ellenbrook rail line, which I believe to be a major Liberal government broken promise. Time and again I have heard people trying to rewrite history on this issue. The Liberal Party very clearly made a commitment before the last election, and I will quote Hon Simon O’Brien, the then spokesperson for transport and later Minister for Transport. On 1 September 2008 he talked about the Ellenbrook rail line and stated —

They’re promising —

That is, the Labor Party —

a rail service to Ellenbrook and yet they’re not even going to start construction until the election after the next election,” Mr O’Brien said.

That’s not good enough and I think the people of Western Australia in certain marginal seats are sick of being taken for granted.

...

The difference is we’ll do it in our first year of our government not our eighth year.

That was a clear commitment to the people of north east corridor that the Liberal Party was going to fund and build the Ellenbrook rail line, and that it was going to commence it in this term. I think it is important to put this on the record because, frankly, it does not matter what the Premier says when he is being interviewed on the radio; these are the facts and these are the documents. Not much more evidence needs to be produced to show that clear commitment. I will go to the costings booklet that is the current Minister for Transport’s baby, as he said; he did it. He compiled the Liberal Party’s financial plan and he put it in the financial plan; the current Minister for Transport, who is debating whether there was a commitment, put it in the financial plan. There it is—Ellenbrook rail line! The Liberal Party financial plan shows it received funding of \$53 million, of which \$13 million was to be spent in 2010–11 and \$40 million in 2011–12. It was a clear election commitment. In December 2008, just after the Liberal Party won government in the September election, the *2008–09 Government Mid-Year Financial Projections Statement*, another key document, was released, so it was a clear indication of the government’s election commitments. It states —

- Construction of the Ellenbrook Railway Line (Midland Line Spur) is expected to commence in 2010–11.

In 2010–11, \$16.3 million was committed, and \$52.6 million was committed in 2011–12. Since that time we have had backflip after backflip, the rewriting of history, and the cancellation of rail definition studies. Last year’s budget included \$10 million for the Ellenbrook rail line master plan; that has now been taken out, and there is now a more general commitment for some planning for the north east corridor, which I understand to be a bus transit system, but we do not know.

Mr F.A. Alban: Will you take an interjection?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No, because the member for Swan Hills has not been truthful with people.

Mr F.A. Alban: It’s an interjection, that’s all.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Okay, I will take the interjection; come on.

Mr F.A. Alban: Assuming you were in government and your electorate says to you, “We really want the Perth–Darwin highway; we really want to fix the safety issues; we really want to fix Henley Brook Avenue; we really want Gnangara Road fixed”, but there isn’t a big basket of money that is coming from heaven —

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I thank the member for Swan Hills for that.

I will put this out: the Liberal Party made a commitment. It was a core promise; it was included in its election costings; it put out a flyer. The member for Swan Hills has to say that that has to be a priority.

Mr F.A. Alban: So you would do whatever —

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No, the Liberal Party has to deliver its commitments. The member for Swan Hills can sit there trying to defend the Liberal Party tactics, but his government is funding things like the Premier’s palace at \$25 million.

Mr F.A. Alban: It is also funding Perth–Darwin highway that you support—you said you supported it.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The allocation for the Perth–Darwin highway is \$8 million? That is the cost of planning for a \$600 million road! Does the member for Swan Hills think that will fund Perth–Darwin highway?

Mr F.A. Alban: That’s just the beginning. You know full well that that’s just the start.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The issue is that the government made the commitment. The member should go out and tell people that the government broke an election promise. He should be honest, but he has not, and neither has the government. That is the core issue. The member should go out there and tell people that the government broke a promise. If he wants to say that it broke a promise because it thinks other things take priority, that is fine; he should say it out there, but he should not try to rewrite history. The government made a promise and now it is breaking it. The member should be honest with the people and go out and say that he thinks that other things take priority.

MR A.P. O’GORMAN (Joondalup) [7.10 pm]: I will start my contribution to the budget debate by making some general comments and then I will get onto some issues that particularly relate to my electorate.

This budget was styled “the people’s budget” before it even came out, in an effort by the Liberal government to camouflage what it actually is. This was the “Tin Man”’s budget—or a Jenga budget, if you will. We all know