

VICHANSARD

Whole Speech

Title

Calder Freeway: traffic congestion

House

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Adjournment

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Calder Freeway: traffic congestion

[Mr FINN \(Western Metropolitan\)](#) -- This might seem like adjournment matter take 2, because I seek action from the Minister for Roads and Ports in the other place to alleviate traffic congestion on the Calder Freeway, particularly in the Taylors Lakes and Keilor areas. Members might never have to travel on the Calder Freeway or, for that matter, on the West Gate Freeway, but for thousands of people in Melbourne's north-west, peak hour on the Calder Freeway is a daily nightmare. Speaking as someone who does use the Calder, I can certainly back that up.

It is all very well for the government to crow about growth in the west and to talk about people moving into the west of Melbourne in such large numbers, but without the necessary infrastructure to support those people moving in, it is a very hollow crow indeed.

Hundreds of thousands of hours each week are wasted by people sitting in their cars in gridlock between Sunshine Avenue and Keilor Park Drive in the morning and the Western Ring Road and Green Gully Road in the afternoon. Again, I can personally vouch for that.

The frustration of 80-kilometre-an-hour speed limits well past the Calder Park Thunderdome adds to the misery of those commuters on their way home. This is an issue that has been going on for quite some time now. Why we would have 80-kilometre-an-hour speed limits on a major freeway is beyond me. I am sure Mr Drum will back me up on that one as well.

I ask the minister to act now. I am not an expert on road infrastructure. I do not know exactly what needs to be done. The minister, within his job capabilities, should know what to do, so I am asking him to do whatever is necessary -- commission whatever report or hire whatever consultant.

Surely it should not be too hard for this government; it has after all had plenty of practice. The problem needs urgent attention. It is something that is affecting hundreds of thousands of people every day.

Mr Thornley -- On a point of order, President, I am new to this place, but my understanding is that you have to ask the minister for a specific action.

Mrs Peulich -- He has. You were not listening.

Mr Thornley -- It was a very general question to do anything necessary -- commission any report or do whatever is necessary. That does not seem very specific.

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The PRESIDENT -- Order! The member had in fact asked for action at the start of his contribution. He has not finished yet and he has more time to elaborate on that.

Mr FINN -- I take that point of order from Mr Thornley as another show of contempt by the Labor Party in this state for the people of the west of Melbourne. You would think I would be used to it by now, but it never ceases to amaze me.

Perhaps we do need another lane on the Calder Freeway. That is something that we can see the minister bringing in. We need overpasses. We need a whole range of measures which will make it easier for people to get to work and to get home in the afternoon. I sincerely hope the minister will take this on board and act immediately to fix this. Otherwise we can only assume that when it matters in the west, Steve Bracks just does not care.