

NORTHERN SUBURBS RAIL LINE, DELAYS IN IMPROVEMENTS

1755. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

I refer to the report in the *Sunday Times* on 5 May 2002, regarding delays in improvements to the northern suburbs rail line and ask -

- (a) is the report in the Sunday Times correct;
- (b) what is the extent of the delays;
- (c) what is the reason for the delays;
- (d) when did the delays first become known;
- (e) what budgetary allocations had/have been made for the financial years ending 30 June 2001, 30 June 2002, 30 June 2003 and 30 June 2004 for both the Greenwood and Clarkson train stations;
- (f) for the financial years ending 30 June 2001 and 2002, have any of these budget allocations been used;
- (g) if so, on what;
- (h) if not, has the money been reallocated or returned to consolidated revenue;
- (i) for the year ending 30 June 2003, will the budget allocations be spent on the respective stations; and
- (j) if not, why not?

Ms MacTIERNAN replied:

- (a) The Sunday Times was correct when it reported that rail services to Clarkson and Greenwood would commence at the end of 2004.
- (b) 12 months delay for both Greenwood and Clarkson stations
- (c) The previous government made the decision to proceed with the acquisition of railcars by way of operating lease. After advice was received from Treasury that such an arrangement would cost taxpayers an additional \$25 million, a decision was made to purchase the new rail cars rather than lease them. Consequently, it was necessary to seek amended bids for the cars to be government owned, rather than a lease arrangement, and to obtain revised prices from the tenderers.
- (d) The decision to purchase the rail cars rather than lease them was made in October 2001. The rail car contract was signed on 10 May 2002.
- (e)

	Clarkson	Greenwood
2000/01	\$68,000	
2001/02	\$752,000	\$50,000
2002/03	\$3,696,000	\$1,000,000
2003/04	\$4,718,000	\$5,750,000
2004/05	\$1,540,000	
- (f)

	Clarkson	Greenwood
2000/01	\$68,000	
2001/02	\$395,000 (est)	\$50,000 (est)
- (g) Design fees
- (h) Total funding of the Perth Urban Rail Development project has been approved and funds have been allocated through the Capital Works Programme.

Project funds allocated in a particular year but not spent in the year will be retained for the project and carried forward into the subsequent year(s), with Department of Treasury and Finance approval.
- (i) Yes
- (j) Not applicable.