

METRONET — ARMADALE RAIL LINE

301. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the minister's unacceptably evasive response yesterday in relation to the timing of, and reasons for, a decision that will have a significant impact on thousands of Western Australians. Reminding the minister of the government's alleged commitment to gold-standard transparency, I ask the following questions again.

- (1) On what date was the decision made to shut down the Armadale line for up to 18 months?
- (2) How many shutdown options were examined and what were they?
- (3) Will the minister table the advice that led to the preferred option being selected; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) On the topic of transparency, it is noted that successive leaders of the Liberal Party have refused to allow this government access to the business case for the Forrestfield–Airport Link project, despite the project being nearly complete. Nevertheless, the contract for the Victoria Park–Canning level crossing removal project is yet to be awarded, and discussions are ongoing with the preferred proponent. Ordinarily, the operational impact of these contracts, such as shutdowns, are not announced until after the contract is awarded. However, in the interests of transparency, the state government deemed it appropriate to inform the community of the shutdown early. As a result, we now have the opportunity to undertake significant community consultation on replacement services.