

METRONET — ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

731. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:

Before I begin, I welcome Brandon Waterfield and his mother to Parliament today on behalf of the member for Kalamunda.

My question is to the member for Swan Hills—sorry, my question is to the Minister for Transport! I have lots of questions for myself in this place sometimes!

The SPEAKER: Preamble, member!

Ms J.J. SHAW: I refer to the McGowan Labor government's efforts to drive WA's economic recovery through the delivery of Metronet and its significant investment in local manufacturing.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how this government's investment in Metronet, including the long-awaited Morley–Ellenbrook link is supporting local jobs?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this government's record of investment in local manufacturing compares with that of the Liberal–National government?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question. I am sure she would also be able to provide the answer, but I will give it a go anyway! It is a great pleasure to show what we are delivering in relation to the Ellenbrook rail line. This week we announced the preferred contractor for the Ellenbrook rail line and it is the MELconnx Consortium. Laing O'Rourke Australia Construction will deliver that rail line. This is a rail line that the Liberal Party promised in 2008 and never delivered. This is the rail line it promised in 2013 and never delivered. We have been around the suburbs and the state. We were in Albany today with your good self, Mr Speaker, outlining the record infrastructure we have around the state. Metronet is a key part of that. The packages for the new Bayswater station have been let and the Tonkin Highway gap package has been let. The Tonkin gap alliance comprises BMD Constructions, Georgiou Group, WA Limestone, BG&E and GHD, with works to commence very, very soon.

We are getting on delivering our commitments to creating thousands of jobs throughout Western Australia. Every time I go to a site, every construction company I meet says that this state government is doing a record amount in delivering contracts to all contractors operating in WA. Of course, the opposition does not support Laing O'Rourke delivering this project. It would rule out Multiplex and Clough, for example, ever bidding for projects in Western Australia. That is their policy. It would rule out those companies bidding for contracts. We know this opposition is in a desperate, desperate spin when it comes to policies, as we have seen in recent days. It rocked up to a company claiming that company was locked out of bidding for a contract for railcar manufacturing. That is absolutely wrong. It is yet another Liberal lie. The Liberal Party members rocked up with their self-produced hi-vis vests. No-one else in the entire company was wearing one, but they had hi-vis vests. It is all about spin and desperate politics from the opposition. Again, we are seeing an opposition wanting to undermine confidence in Western Australia and cut out companies such as Clough and Multiplex from ever bidding for projects in Western Australia again.

That should not surprise anyone. This opposition has taken sides against WA and WA workers again and again. It said we should not have a local railcar manufacturing industry because there was an industry from a bygone area. It subcontracted work for the Matagarup Bridge overseas, and when we brought it onshore, it said it would be substandard. The opposition has backed against the interests of WA workers. It has sided, and continues to side, with Clive Palmer. Yet again today, we saw the member for Dawesville put the interests of Clive Palmer ahead of Western Australians. The opposition sided with the federal government when it attempted to pull down our borders. I understand that the member for Dawesville just issued a challenge to the Chief Health Officer to front a town hall meeting. I will give the member for Dawesville this: I challenge him and the Leader of the Opposition to stand in front of a town hall meeting and explain to the public of Western Australia why they continually side with Clive Palmer on every issue in Western Australia.