

METRONET — PUBLIC TRANSPORT — PATRONAGE

**717. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented investment in public transport, and its commitment to reducing congestion by getting more commuters onto buses and trains.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what the latest catchment figures show about this government's effort in growing the use of public transport?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how the delivery of this government's job-creating Metronet rail expansion will see even more people use public transport?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Bicton for that question. Of course, yesterday morning, the member for Bicton and I took the train from Fremantle to Perth to mark the fortieth anniversary of the closure of the Fremantle line by the Liberal Party.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The Liberal Party has never seen a rail line it does not want to close or does not want to sell. That is in its DNA—closing and selling rail lines across WA. We know the Liberal Party does not support Metronet and we know it does not support our ambitious and bold vision for the future of Western Australia. Yesterday, of course, as part of acknowledging that terrible day 40 years ago when the Liberal Party closed the Fremantle line, the new patronage figures also came out. They show 1.6 million extra boardings in 2018–19. That is the culmination of a number of factors. Of course, further investment in our rail network will see a further increase in boardings across our rail network. We have seen expansions like the northern suburbs rail line and the southern suburbs rail line completely change the way we commute across our suburbs, as we build the Yanchep extension, the Thornlie–Cockburn line, the Ellenbrook line and the Byford extension, together with the level crossing removal program. Can I say that I endorse the comments of Dale Alcock —

**Mr D.C. Nalder** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bateman!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** — about removing those level crossings and investing in our heritage lines. That is our Metronet vision—creating jobs —

**Mr D.C. Nalder** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bateman! It is not a chat session.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** — and reducing congestion. This is a party that in eight and a half years could not build Roe 8 and now wants us to build four rail lines in two years.

**Mr D.C. Nalder** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bateman, I call you to order for the third time.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** This is a party that in eight and a half years could not deliver Roe 8 and now wants us to build four whole rail networks in two years. The Liberal Party does not support Metronet.

**Ms L. Mettam:** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse! I call you to order for the third time.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The Liberal Party does not support Metronet. Last week, it came out in some debate—many members might have missed it—that the member for Riverton rang the Conservation Council asking why it did not put in opposition to the Thornlie–Cockburn rail line. I mean —

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The Liberal Party —

**Mr B.S. Wyatt** interjected

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The Liberal Party is out there, trying to wreck Metronet. That is what the member for Riverton and the Liberal Party are trying to do.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** That was incredible information last week—that the member for Riverton was out there, ringing people, trying to get them to oppose Metronet.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Water! I call you to order for the first time.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** That is what the member for Riverton is spending his time doing. I say get on board; support Metronet. It is our vision for the future.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Riverton, you will withdraw.

**Ms R. Saffioti:** What did he say?

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** You have just made a false statement.

**The SPEAKER:** I call you to order for the first time. Now withdraw.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** I withdraw.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Riverton, I call you to order for the second time, and next time I will name you if you keep querying my decision.