

BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT — ELLENBROOK

517. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Transport:

The minister is very popular today. The \$49 million Ellenbrook bus rapid transit project has generated considerable interest and excitement in my community.

Several members interjected.

Mr F.A. ALBAN: Unlike in your communities—there is nothing happening in yours!

Can the minister please update the house on its progress?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills. I know he is excited about the announcement of this project. This government is delivering real transport solutions for the people of Ellenbrook and around that area. In addition to establishing a freeway network for the people of Ellenbrook, construction of which will commence at the end of this year, this will allow the opening of the Bullsbrook industrial precinct and the creation of jobs for the people who live up there so that they can not only rest and play but also work in that environment. We are delivering a better public transport solution for the people of Ellenbrook and the surrounding suburbs. We are delivering.

Just as an update, on 27 July we went out for request for proposal. This is a design and construct, it will be in before the end of the year, and we anticipate construction to commence this year. This project will create Western Australia's first dedicated bus-only lane. It will be separated from the other traffic, it will avoid the intersections, and it will save people 10 minutes of travel time during peak hours down Lord Street. The 950 bus service saves between three and four minutes and has had a more than 40 per cent increase in patronage. It is the most successful bus service in Perth. It has the highest customer satisfaction rating of any bus service in Western Australia, with a three to four-minute travel time saving. We will deliver a 10-minute travel time saving for the people of Ellenbrook.

Not only will we deliver that to the Bassendean train station so people can travel to the CBD; we will also connect it to Midland. What is important, and often gets lost, is that we have established —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, you seem to have come to life again! If you want to shout out, I will call you for the third time.

Mr D.C. NALDER: We have established the new Midland Public Hospital and we are providing a better connection for the people of Ellenbrook and the surrounding suburbs to be able to access that hospital. This government is also committed to supporting a new university campus in Midland. That is another thing we are going to provide better access to for the young people up in Ellenbrook. As I said, there will be three new bus stations, with the bottom one at Marshall Road. It will connect through to Morley so that people can travel three ways. As the rail line goes out there, the Perth–Morley line, it will provide a better connection so that people can have alternative access points and a far better service. If we look at this as a fully integrated transport solution for Ellenbrook, we must take into consideration the freeway network, the industrial precinct and better connections into Midland and Perth.