

RAIL NETWORK - CRITICISM BY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

642. Mr A.P. O'GORMAN to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

Is the minister surprised that the Leader of the Opposition is criticising the government over the rail network?

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for his question and for his support for the railway. I am not surprised that the Leader of the Opposition is criticising the government, because his hypocrisy knows no bounds. Having got the New MetroRail project under way, the government is now thinking of the next step - the son of New MetroRail - and is buying another 45 railcars. What does the Leader of the Opposition say? He says that the government is not thinking far enough ahead. Let me tell members what this guru of transport planning had to say in 2002, when he stood in Parliament and tried to prevent the government proceeding with the New MetroRail project.

Mr M.W. Trenorden interjected.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: The member for Avon is being very naughty again. I know he is trying to protect his fellow country member. I know this is massively embarrassing, because we could say much the same about the member for Avon, but he is not in the same position as the Leader of the Opposition. In 2002 the Leader of the Opposition had this to say about railway planning -

I do not agree with the project at all. It is miles ahead of its time. It is an absolute waste of taxpayers' money. The Government is trying to con the people of Western Australia into believing they need a railway line when they do not.

He also said on 12 September 2002 -

In my view, this project is at least five years ahead of its time, and possibly 10, in that the infrastructure that is in place now is more than adequate to cater for the traffic that comes from Mandurah and goes north.

This mob opposite has never shown any foresight in transport planning. Whether or not it is closing the Perth to Mandurah -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the member for South Perth.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: The only defence of members opposite is on their web page, which states that they built the Joondalup railway line. We have demonstrated time and again that it is only a Labor government that is prepared to make the investment to give Perth the rail network it deserves.

Mr J.H.D. Day interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Darling Range to order for the first time.