

PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK - EXPANSION COMMITMENT

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

Will the minister advise the house of the state government's latest commitment to expand Perth's world-class public transport network?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for Joondalup for his question and for his great enthusiasm for our public transport system. Folks on the opposition benches will be delighted to hear that there is more good news for Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** The opposition is so excited. Indeed, the member for Carine is the most excited member because she loves trains. The biggest rail investment project in Australia - the New MetroRail - is currently under way in Western Australia. The acquisition of 93 new cars will double the size of our rolling stock.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call to order the Leader of the Opposition and the members for Murdoch and Murray.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** There has been phenomenal growth in patronage. Indeed, in 2004-05 there was five per cent growth and last year there was an additional 4.5 per cent growth. It is quite clear that our very pro-public transport policies, combined with rising fuel prices, are creating demand, and we need to meet that demand. Today, the Premier and I were pleased to announce a commitment of about \$160 million to order 45 new rail cars. We hope that we will start rolling those rail cars out from the beginning of 2009. This is great news of yet another major investment in expansion of a public transport network in Perth.