

METRONET — CAPITAL SPENDING AND FUNDING

1474. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the additional \$1 billion that the commonwealth government has gifted to the state government to cover the most recent cost blowouts for Metronet.

- (1) What is the best current rounded estimate of the full capital cost of Metronet —
 - (a) \$11 billion;
 - (b) \$12 billion; or
 - (c) \$13 billion?
- (2) Does the minister rule out any further budget blowouts of the kind she has consistently delivered each year since 2017?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) The \$1 billion allocated by the federal government reflects a contribution towards just its share of cost escalations, as per national partnership agreements. This is shown in the 2023–24 state budget. Cost escalations have been experienced across the whole economy, whether one is building a patio or a railway. The cost per kilometre for Metronet projects remains significantly lower than other major rail projects across Australia.