

METROPOLITAN REGION SCHEME AMENDMENT 1060/33A

112.Mrs C.L. EDWARDES to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

I refer the minister to the metropolitan region scheme amendment 1060/33A -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Question time was progressing reasonably well, but it is very difficult when a question cannot be asked due to interjections.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I refer the minister -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I ask members to resume their seats.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Go over there, sit down and behave yourselves.

The SPEAKER: I ask that all members return to their seats. If I need assistance, the attendants will provide that. I ask that the aisles of the Chamber be kept clear.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Mr Speaker, I hope that later I will be able to have that map laid on the Table of the House for the remainder of today's sitting.

I refer to metropolitan region scheme amendment 1060/33A, which will allow railway works to proceed within a road reservation, including all primary regional roads or other regional roads on the MRS, without the need for development approval or consultation with local councils or the general public. Will the minister confirm that if this amendment goes through, the Government will be able to construct railways or light rail along any major arterial road depicted in red or in blue on this MRS map, without the need for development approval?

The **SPEAKER:** Order! That map will remain on the Table of the House for the balance of today's sitting.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

This is quite entertaining, because, as I have explained to this House before today, the minor amendment process to address this and a range of other points was commenced by the previous Government. The member for Kingsley is an intelligent and capable member. I thought that when I explained this to the member yesterday and handed her a copy of this document, we would make some progress on this matter and she would understand that this has always been the situation - until the famous case in which the City of Bayswater took action against the Department for Community Development to stop it from building -

Several members interjected.

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: It is a serious issue, and I want to address it. We cannot sneak through rail construction. I cannot build rail along every road -

Several members interjected.

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: I know that members opposite are rail phobic. Their history has been to pull up rail. They are now concerned that we are putting down rail. They are now alleging that we will go around the metropolitan area and build railway lines along all of these roads. An important piece of legislation that I would like to introduce to the member for Kingsley, because she is not the opposition transport spokesperson so she might not be aware of it, is the Western Australian Government Railways Act. That Act provides that before any piece of railway can be built, it must come to the Parliament for approval and full scrutiny.

Mr P.G. Pendal interjected.

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: I will not let blustering and bullying from the member for South Perth stop proper debate on this matter. I make it clear that we will be seeking planning approval for all aspects of the rail between the Narrows and Northbridge, all of the bridgeworks and all of the stations. A wide variety of planning approvals will be sought by this Government, and we hope to have those applications in place within the next few months.