

ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

852. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the historic legislation introduced today that will enshrine in law the Morley–Ellenbrook rail line and clear the way for this job-creating project to get underway. Can the minister outline to the house why this legislation is so important for the people of my electorate and right across the north-eastern suburbs, and can the minister advise the house if she is aware of any threats to this important economy-driving project?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! The minister has not said a word yet and you are still interjecting.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question and her strong support for the Ellenbrook rail line project. Today is indeed a proud day for the McGowan government as the legislation to facilitate the Ellenbrook rail line had its second reading. We introduced the Railway (METRONET) Amendment Bill 2019 to authorise the construction of the Morley–Ellenbrook line. Once approved, the Morley–Ellenbrook line will be the third railway line covered by the Railway (METRONET) Act 2018. As members know, we have already passed the legislation to facilitate the Yanchep rail line and the Thornlie–Cockburn Link.

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Of course, member for Butler. The Liberal Party did not support that project either. It was a major election commitment that we gave at the election.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! This is good news.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is good news for Western Australia but not for Liberal Party members; that is the problem. The Ellenbrook line is a 21-kilometre line that will spur off the Midland line at Bayswater, run down the middle of Tonkin Highway, through land north of Marshall Road, and along the new Lord Street alignment through to the Ellenbrook town centre. We know that the Ellenbrook town centre has been waiting for this rail line for many years. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to attend two new housing developments: one in Bennett Springs with the Minister for Housing; and one in Ellenbrook with the member for Swan Hills and the Minister for Housing. The feedback we got from the development industry was about the excitement now along the north-east corridor because the rail line is coming under a Labor government. They are seeing a lot more excitement and activity because of the infrastructure —

Mr D.C. Nalder: It's all in your seat.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: What was that?

Mr D.C. Nalder: I'm not allowed to speak.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: What did you say?

The SPEAKER: Minister!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Bateman was so proud of his record in the seat before the last election that he gave it away to somebody else! At least we stick to our commitments on our side of politics, member for Bateman. We will not need to change seats because we are delivering —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse! I do not mind you interjecting, but say something sensible. I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Vasse is out there opposing the project and in one sense has said that we are not going fast enough, and in the other sense has said, “We oppose the project”. Where does the member for Vasse stand on it? Does she support the project? The member for Darling Range has had to quieten down the member for Vasse. Does she support the project: yes or no?

The SPEAKER: Minister, through the Chair.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Vasse is very good on Twitter and on being negative—everywhere getting out there; this rail line is so bad. She has aligned herself with council candidates who have opposed this project every day for the last 10 years. That is who she has aligned herself with and everyone in that corridor knows it, member for Vasse.

This is indeed a proud day for WA. We are getting on with the job of creating the Ellenbrook rail line, creating certainty for the corridor and getting excitement back to the development industry in that corridor. It is good news and it is a day that we can all be proud of, members.