

METRONET — ARMADALE RAIL LINE — SHUTDOWN

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

I refer to the proposed extended closure of the Armadale line for a period of 18 months.

- (1) Has the minister received independent written advice that substantiates her repeated argument that this shutdown option is the most efficient, cost-effective, reliable and safe method in comparison with alternatives?
- (2) What precisely were the alternative approaches that the minister gave consideration to, and what were their comparative values against the metrics of efficiency, cost-effectiveness, service reliability and safety?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1) Independent written advice has been obtained.
- (2) The option of constructing a temporary line while construction took place was considered. During the tender stage it was determined that it would cost significantly more; it would result in an extended level of disruption to passengers, local residents and businesses; and there would be significant safety risks associated with completing works alongside live rail infrastructure.