

ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE — WHITEMAN PARK STATION

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in job-creating transport projects, including the delivery of Metronet.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the work underway to deliver the Morley–Ellenbrook line, including Whiteman Park station, and what this project will mean for people in the north-eastern corridor?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this government's unprecedented infrastructure investment compares with the record of the Nationals WA and the Liberal Party?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question. She is a strong supporter of Metronet and the Morley–Ellenbrook rail line. Yesterday, we released the first images of the new Whiteman Park train station, and it is incredible. The Whiteman Park train station is a key part of the Morley–Ellenbrook line.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister, just pause for a moment here. We had an interjection from the member for Cottesloe. That is not an opportunity for everybody else to interject, and it is unparliamentary. What I would like to hear is the answer to the question that was asked by the member for Swan Hills.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The key difference between the Labor Party and the Liberal Party is that we announce things because we are doing things. Do members remember the former member for Swan Hills, “Little Frankie”? He said the Liberals will build the rail line to Ellenbrook. Do members remember that one? The Liberals announced the Ellenbrook rail line and never delivered it in eight years. They never started it! They promised it twice and never even started or planned for it. The difference is that we announce because we do. They announce and they break promises—that is all they did.

We have referred a little bit to the Leader of the Liberal Party's comments in front of the Liberal Party state council meeting last weekend. Members will remember him performing for the puppetmasters in the audience. In his comments on public transport he said that he does not believe in taxpayer subsidisation for people using our trains.

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He stood in front of that audience and criticised the subsidisation of public transport.

I go back to the beautiful Morley–Ellenbrook rail line.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, I am asking you not to interject.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Cottesloe is very touchy. He likes to criticise, but when we put a mirror in front of his performance, he cannot handle it. Do members remember his performance in front of those puppetmasters, the upper house members? He described them as “the good Liberals in this audience.” He said, “People might criticise you out there, but you're good Liberals and please keep me as leader for a bit longer.” That is basically what he was begging for at his own Liberal Party conference.

I will get back to the new Whiteman Park station, members. It is a beautiful new station and a beautiful design. A new underpass at Drumpellier Drive will connect the residents of Dayton, Brabham and Henley Brook. A 20-metre underpass will ensure that people in that corridor can get to the train station by cycling or walking. In the next five to 10 years, 12 000 new homes will be built in that corridor, with 32 000 additional people coming into that area. There will be parking bays, toilets, lifts, escalators and bus stands.

As part of the entire project, the other work that people can see happening as they drive along Tonkin Highway is the Tonkin Highway Gap project. We had an incredible bridge lift over the weekend and one of the four bridges around the Guildford Road and Railway Parade area is now complete. If people look in the medium term, they will see that it is the work for the Morley–Ellenbrook rail line. Work is happening up and down that corridor. Again, we apologise for the disruption, but we are delivering the Ellenbrook rail line, a rail line that members opposite promised and failed to deliver. They lied about it time and again.