

FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK

**20. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Transport:**

Can the minister please provide an update on the transformational Forrestfield–Airport Link project as many people in my electorate are excited about the preliminary works they are seeing at the Forrestfield station site?

**Mr D.C. NALDER replied:**

I will gladly update the house towards the delivery of the government's \$2 billion Forrestfield–Airport Link. I remind members that this is a seriously transformational project for Western Australia. This is the Liberal–National government delivering the first of Perth's underground.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** We are not talking about it; we are delivering the Perth underground. Let me also remind the house that when I announced that I was to pursue the investigation of a tunnel all the way from Bayswater through to Forrestfield, I was ridiculed in this house! A Curtin University academic said that it was a joke and would cost 10 times the budget. We are retaining the budget of our commitment, which was all above-ground. I am very comfortable as we are developing a track record, right across Western Australia, of delivering infrastructure projects ahead of time and under budget. I am very confident about this.

Several members interjected.

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** Member for Mandurah, all I can hear is squawking.

I would like to remind members that this investment is in the eastern suburbs, which was long neglected by the former Labor government. It talks about innovation and practices, and infrastructure. Why did it implement Transperth gas buses across Perth, but they could not be delivered to the eastern suburbs? What happened? They retained the old Renault buses out there for 25 years. The eastern suburbs have long been neglected. We are getting on and delivering a project. We will cut travel times from the eastern suburbs into the CBD down from 50 minutes to 20 minutes. We will provide a saving of 30 minutes for the people in the eastern suburbs. Important milestones have been achieved.

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** Thank you, member for South Perth. In the last year we have passed the Railway (Forrestfield–Airport Link) Bill 2015.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** All the geotechnical groundworks have been completed. Ten public community information sessions have been held. Three consortia have been shortlisted to prepare a proposal to deliver the project and I will announce very soon the final proponents for the Forrestfield–Airport Link. The forward site works for service relocations have commenced. Members will see activity already out at the Forrestfield area because site works have commenced for the relocation of services, state environmental approval has been granted, the plan for Perth Airport has been approved, an Aboriginal business briefing was held and land acquisitions are in progress. At its peak, we expect around 800 employees to be working on this project and an estimated 2 000 jobs to be created over its life. We have heard all these questions about delivering infrastructure. We are not just talking about it; we are getting on and delivering it and I look forward to providing further updates to this house.