

METRONET — ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

**598. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:**

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Mount Lawley, I welcome the winners of the Mount Lawley Society quiz night. I understand that he shouted them lunch as atonement for not making it to the quiz night this year.

**The SPEAKER:** The question, thank you.

**Ms J.J. SHAW:** I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented investment in job-creating public transport infrastructure, including Metronet. Can the minister update the house on the construction of the Metronet Morley–Ellenbrook line and outline what opportunities are being created for the community through the construction of this transformational project?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

Work is well underway to build the rail line to Ellenbrook. Last week, we were at Ellenbrook Christian College to start works on the critical part of the Metronet rail line that goes through that college. There is a dedicated transit way between the school buildings and the oval at Ellenbrook Christian College before it reaches Ellenbrook station. That section of land has been dedicated for a rail line since the early 1990s. I remember meeting the board and the principal of that college over many years. Initially, they did not think a rail line would be built because the Liberal Party was in office. Of course, we won government and we got on with building the railway line. We sat down with them and they have been excellent to work with. They understood that there was a transit way and they understood that we committed to a rail line.

We have been working to make sure that we minimise disruption to the students and also that the college has a win as well. That includes new dedicated STEM courses that the contractor is delivering for girls at high school. A number of girls are studying dedicated courses in engineering and that is all being sponsored by the local contractor. The government is making sure that the underpass is exactly as the college requires it to ensure good accessibility between the college oval and academic area. We are also contributing towards the building of a dedicated sports pavilion near the oval to ensure that the students, particularly primary school students, can access the sports pavilion and the oval and will not have to go back and forth through the underpass under the railway line. It is a massive win for the college. I thank everyone who has been involved to realise those negotiations to deliver not only benefits to the school, but also the rail line.

Work is underway across the area. Anyone who has been up there will have seen the work that is underway on the Ellenbrook, Whiteman Park, Malaga and Noranda train stations, and work is about to commence on the Morley train station. The dive structures under the Tonkin Highway, both north and south, are nearly complete. Other key things such as the dive structure under Gngangara Road are very much underway.

We are very excited about this project. We are very excited that the people of Ellenbrook will get the train line they deserve, particularly when they were promised that train line not once, but twice, by the Liberal Party. I have been thinking: Liberal Party members are such hypocrites about public transport that they will probably be running around the week before we open the Ellenbrook rail line saying, "It was our idea", as they did with the Forrestfield–Airport Link project. The people of Ellenbrook know they can trust Labor when it comes to public transport. Work is very much underway.

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Seriously! It took me a while, but finally! I dangled that hook. Patience is not my virtue, but that hook was in long enough that he bit. I thought he would just swim past, but he actually turned up and bit.

Let us remember the flyer that was sent out in 2008 to everyone living in Ellenbrook saying that the Liberals would build a rail line to Ellenbrook. After that commitment I walked in here and asked where was the Ellenbrook rail line and was told, "We didn't commit to it." I acknowledge the late Frank Calabrese who heard a radio interview saying that they did commit to it—it was a Gareth Parker program. This pamphlet then appeared, which showed that everyone in that corridor had received the pamphlet saying that the Liberal Party would deliver a rail line. When we asked, we were told that it was not a first-term commitment; it was a second-term commitment. In eight and a half years, nothing was done. Not only did the former government not start the project; it did not even begin to plan the project. From scratch, we planned and we funded, and we are delivering the rail line to Ellenbrook. That is a project that we are all very proud of.