

FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK — EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

176. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Transport:

I understand the government began seeking expressions of interest for the Forrestfield–Airport Link project in late January. Can the minister please provide an update of this process?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

I thank the member for the question. Forrestfield–Airport Link is a \$2 billion state government funded project that will transform the eastern suburbs. For the people of High Wycombe, Forrestfield and Maida Vale it will mean a 20-minute journey to Perth from the new Forrestfield station.

Ms L.L. Baker: It's a shame about Bayswater.

Mr D.C. NALDER: I beg your pardon; did the member say, "Funny about that"?

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

Mr D.C. NALDER: It will be an 18-minute journey to the city centre. I will come back to that because I think a question related to how that compares to the Labor plan and I want to touch on that. Expressions of interest were released in late January for the main design and construct contract, including the tunnel and civil infrastructure for the tracks, stations and rail systems, and that includes signalling and communications. We have received five strong expressions of interest submissions from both national and international respondents. That is a positive sign that this has been well researched and well regarded by the broader community and suppliers. The Public Transport Authority is engaged in evaluating the submissions and further proponents will be invited to apply for the request for proposal phase.

Touching on something someone said earlier, I think this is an appropriate time to explore the comparisons with this. We are talking about a 20-minute journey. We have heard that "metrodebt"—no, it was not "metrodebt", it was the "marginal-seat net"; no, it was something like that.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park!

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen! Sorry to disturb you.

Mr D.C. NALDER: I heard about the "Norwegian Blue" comment last week —

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I believe the minister has fully answered the question asked of him by the member for Forrestfield and at this stage he is giving a very lengthy answer and abusing question time. I draw your attention to relevance.

Mr N.W. Morton interjected.

The SPEAKER: We are very happy to hear that, member for Forrestfield. I call you to order for the first time. Minister, please wind this up.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr D.C. NALDER: Certainly, Mr Speaker. Last week we heard about the "Norwegian Blue", which is also another name for an arctic fox. But in the spirit of the member for Victoria Park, the opposite side is bereft of life when it comes to this issue. Opposition members talked about their solution to Forrestfield. I saw the Leader of the Opposition's press release, which stated —

WA Labor's airport rail line will allow them to make the journey within 40 minutes ...

That was a solution that did not even make its way to the airport; that was an airport station that was a kilometre away from the airport! When they talk about funding —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister, you have 30 seconds to wind this up.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, wind this up.

Mr D.C. NALDER: The opposition has been out in the press today to start spruiking its claims about its rail solutions; I am highlighting that they are flawed. The opposition's solutions have been flawed all the way through this. It has no idea about the costings. It was talking about a \$3.8 billion project for everything. The government has gone through the work on this and it has proven that a direct link will take 20 minutes and cost

\$2 billion. I do not know how members opposite will do this for the whole state, and they do not know how. That is the key. We are delivering for the people of Forrestfield and we are very proud of that.