

FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK PLAN

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

I note the announcement of the Forrestfield–Airport Link project definition plan in my electorate of Forrestfield today. Can the minister please inform the house about some of the technical, engineering and social benefits that this new train line will deliver to the state and, importantly, my electorate?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the first time.

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

I thank the member for the question because this project is part of a much bigger picture for the eastern suburbs of Perth. For a number of years, the eastern suburbs have lacked the support of the state government. This government is getting on and delivering great outcomes for the people of Forrestfield and the whole of the eastern suburbs. The eastern suburbs have lacked investment over a number of years. We are now building the billion-dollar Gateway WA project, which is the largest project that we have ever undertaken. That project is on time and on budget, and we are dealing with the largest and worst black spots in this state. The project is coming in under budget and we have been able to transfer funds to do further works, including the grade separation at the intersection of Roe Highway and Berkshire Road. The rail project is an exciting project for this state. We are building a world-class rail solution to the airport and beyond to open up those eastern suburbs. People in the eastern suburbs deserve world-class public transport. We have been focused on north and south, and it is about time a state government stood up for the eastern suburbs.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mandurah, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** This rail line will be twin-bored tunnels. I will give some of the statistics for the line. It will be 6.2 metres across, and 26 metres below ground at the Swan River but 15 metres below ground for the rest of the eight-kilometre stretch. As the Premier noted, as of 2021, there will be 20 000 passengers and that will grow in number to close to 30 000 passengers. I will share the breakdown of passenger numbers across the stations. As at 2021, we are expecting 9 800 daily boardings at the Forrestfield station, 6 100 at the consolidated airport station and 4 100 at the Belmont station. In 2031, the modelling suggests that those numbers will grow to 12 000 daily boardings at the Forrestfield station, 11 000 through the consolidated airport station and 6 000 at the Belmont station. The patronage of this rail link will be very good. Today I announced that the benefit–cost ratio for public transport has come in at 1.5. Public transport solutions with a positive BCR like that are not seen very often at all. This is a great project for Western Australia; it is well thought through, well planned and will be well delivered.