

METRONET — ARMADALE RAIL LINE

329. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the minister's response yesterday in relation to the closure of the Armadale line and the importance of providing access to documents for transparency purposes.

- (1) When was the minister first aware of the need to consider closure options for the Armadale line?
- (2) Which organisations provided the minister with the options concerning the closure of the Armadale line—for example, was this the Public Transport Authority's advice or Main Roads' advice, or did the minister rely on the guidance of any non-government entity; and, if so, which?
- (3) When did the minister receive this advice?
- (4) How many options were considered by the minister?
- (5) When did the minister make her decision?
- (6) On what date did the government make the decision to close the Armadale line for 18 months?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(6) For every project, rail or road, there is often disruption to the users of the existing infrastructure. This is particularly the case for many of the Metronet projects, where work is often being undertaken on live train lines. Contractors work with the department in relation to these shutdowns, and the department in particular will seek to ensure that commuters have access to replacement services and alternative routes, and that disruptions are kept to a minimum. Advice is received throughout the procurement process, and as stated yesterday, this process is still ongoing, with the contract for the Victoria Park–Canning level crossing removal project yet to be awarded. Ordinarily, the operational impact of these contracts, such as shutdowns, are not announced until after the contract is awarded. However, in the interests of transparency, the government deemed it appropriate to inform the community of the shutdown early. As a result, we now have the opportunity to undertake significant community consultation on replacement services.