

JOBS — RAILCAR MANUFACTURING — *AUSTRALIND*

212. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's investment in local railcar manufacturing that is not only creating local jobs, but also delivering six new locally built *Australind* trains, which I am very pleased about.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on what this investment in the *Australind* means for those who use this service, particularly those across the south west?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house what challenges and opposition the government has had to overcome in bringing railcar manufacturing back to WA?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Murray–Wellington for that question.

- (1)–(2) The Premier outlined that just over 10 days ago, we opened the new Bellevue railcar manufacturing facility. We developed this policy in opposition, and when we came to government, we worked on the policy, got the funding and worked out how we would implement it, and now it is happening, members! Compare that with the policy development of the opposition. The Liberal Party's energy policy has become a game of whodunnit, whereby the two members of the Liberal Party are leaking against each other about who actually developed their energy policy.

Let me go back to the real issue of railcar manufacturing in this state. As I said, when we came to government, we looked at the Metronet expansion, the A-series train replacement and the *Australind*—noting that under the previous Liberal–National government, the *Australind* railcars were nearing their useful life. Let us look at the record of the Liberal and National Parties in regional rail in WA. They sold Westrail freight. They closed regional rail lines. When we came to government, we had to reverse the decision of the National Party to shut down the *AvonLink*. In relation to the *Australind*, they had no plan. As a result of our commitment to railcar manufacturing, we looked at new railcars for Metronet, the A-series replacement and the *Australind*. Member for Murray–Wellington, of course, it will be a new service. There will be extra capacity for the Bunbury–Perth service and it will be a fantastic result for everyone in the south west. But, of course, the Liberal Party opposed this at every step of the way. The former Leader of the Liberal Party said that this policy was from a bygone era, that we should not be supporting railcar manufacturing in this state and that we would be trying to revive a policy from a bygone era. The member for Vasse went around trying to undermine our local content policy. She went around with an unsuccessful tenderer basically lying about a tender process. What is the result now? We have 50 per cent of local manufacturing for our railcars, up from two per cent under the previous government when we look at the components. As I said, the member for Vasse went around with an unsuccessful tenderer making absolutely false claims. What is the result? We are building our railcar seats in WA, plus we are bringing home the manufacture of seats for our buses, too. We are expanding our manufacturing base here in Western Australia.

As I said, this is a policy that was developed after careful consideration and proper research in opposition. We said that it could be done. We came to government and we are delivering, compared with the absolute chaos of the Liberal Party. How could we think that two members—the Liberal Party—could create absolute chaos, leaking information against each other and blaming each other about their energy policy?

Dr D.J. Honey: Keep on making it up.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Cottesloe says we are making it up. That explains the energy policy that the Liberal Party made up at the last minute. Now its members are blaming each other for who is responsible and who knew about it. Of course, the member for Vasse walked away from the chaos and the carnage. Again, we have demonstrated what it takes to actually win government and deliver outcomes. It is hard work and it involves dealing with the facts.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Liberal Party.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Just before you start, I ask people to be quiet so we can hear the question.