

ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

401. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to this WA Labor government's commitment to creating local jobs through its pipeline of infrastructure investment across WA.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how this government's construction of the 21-kilometre Morley–Ellenbrook line, which will include five new train stations, continues to reach significant milestones?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this government's approach to building public transport infrastructure compares to that of the Liberal and National Parties?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question. The member for Swan Hills and I were just in Ellenbrook recently talking to some local community groups about how we can leverage this excellent new train station in Ellenbrook with the many community activities we can generate around it. There is a lot of excitement in Ellenbrook to see that station emerge.

Today I visited the new Whiteman Park train station. Whiteman Park is a jewel of the north east corridor. It is a major attractor of visitors and overseas tourists. Over one million visitors each year visit Whiteman Park. We are building a brand new Whiteman Park train station, a train station that will replace the existing bus stations in the major drawcard for visitors from the suburbs and, of course, from interstate and overseas. Whiteman Park train station will also service the growing communities of Brabham, Dayton and Henley Brook, with 32 000 people expected to be living in this corridor over the next five to 10 years. Housing developments are happening right now, and we will have a brand new station servicing the local community and Whiteman Park, which is a Western Australian icon. To date, 12 of the 40 beams needed to complete the elevated rail infrastructure have been installed. There will be full connection to the new suburbs, in particular pedestrian crossings and walkways. There will be 900 car parking bays, 10 bus stands, charging infrastructure for electric vehicles and a number of other features that will, again, make the new train station the envy of the nation. Another component is that we are connecting the train station to the middle of Whiteman Park, where there are existing museums and access to other activities. We have been working with the Bus Preservation Society of WA on building a dedicated bus port for some of the older buses to link passengers who get off at the Whiteman Park train station. We are also working with the tram society in Whiteman Park so that people will be able to catch a tram from the train station into Whiteman Park. Those are some exciting new initiatives for the entire area.

Of course, people of the north east corridor are excited to see all the work that is happening because the previous government's commitment to the Ellenbrook rail line is an example of how it let down people in those suburbs. We produced the book, "A Liberal History of the Ellenbrook Rail Line", and due to an overwhelming response, we have had to go for a second print run! That was because people overwhelmingly wanted to understand exactly how many times the Liberal and National Parties committed to but never delivered the Ellenbrook rail line.

Mr T.J. Healy: Make sure it goes in the museum.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: There will be a series. The next one will be "Metro Area Express Light Rail: How We Let You Down" by the Liberal and National Parties. We will announce a whole series of books on public transport including "How We Closed the Midland Railway Workshops" and "How We Said You Could Never Again Build Rail Stock in WA". We will produce a whole series of books. Also, "How They Closed the Fremantle Line." There is a lot there. The opposition still argues against the cost of public transport. Members opposite ask question after question and say it is not valid to support public transport. But we say it is. Public transport is a key way for people to participate in society. It helps to address cost-of-living pressures and supports people accessing jobs, education opportunities and medical facilities, and connecting to their community. We are strong believers in public transport. The opposition says, "You should be building this faster", but at the same time says we should not be building it at all. That is what members opposite do.

If members are in that corridor, they should drive past and have a look at the Whiteman Park station. It is emerging. It is beautiful. Again, it will be a major drawcard for everyone in this state.