

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INITIATIVES

**498. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Transport:**

This Liberal–National government has recently made several public transport announcements ranging from that of a new train station in Aubin Grove to announcing a plan relating to Western Australia’s proposed light rail system. I note the significance of the announcement relating to the metropolitan —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston, I formally call you to order for the first time today.

**Mr I.M. BRITZA:** I note the significance of the announcement relating to the Metro Area Express and would appreciate it if the minister could update the house on the alternative public transport thought bubbles raised by the Labor Party?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:**

I will try to be quick, Mr Speaker! The member for Morley is right and I thank him for coming along to the launch of the route for the Metro Area Express a couple of weeks ago. I think it is a fantastic announcement. There is a lot of positive support for it right across the community. There is some frustration that it will take some time to get off the ground. We expect construction will start in 2016, but it is a complicated project. The only people I have heard of who oppose it are those in the Western Australian Labor Party. The only people who do not support a significant shift in the provision of public transport infrastructure in Western Australia are those in the Western Australian Labor Party.

**Mr M. McGowan:** When is it going to start?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Once again, it will start in 2016.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** So, Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Questions and answers should not take so long, members.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** It is an excellent project and those opposite should support it. They should support it because it is a fantastic project. I thought by way of comparison that I would share with the house a reflection on some recent announcements around public transport from the Labor Party. In relation to light rail—I have discussed this before—the Labor Party proposes a fully funded light rail from East Perth to West Perth; basically, a light rail project from this side of the Causeway to Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. It will be fully funded from the Perth parking levy, which has no money in it!

**Mr J.N. Hyde:** Rubbish!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Who said “rubbish”? It is true! It is true!

Several members interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** So the Labor Party’s light rail project, which is fully funded, is funded from a funding source which has no money in it! That is the first one!

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** How much money has been allocated to your light rail? How much money? How much is allocated?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Victoria Park, I will allocate to you one formal call to order.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** The second cab off the rank is Atwell train station; a \$45 million train station with nowhere to park—a fantastic announcement!

Several members interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** No wonder the member for Cockburn’s candidate quit!

Several members interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Then there is the new plan to fix train congestion. This is the plan—to spend \$110 million from somewhere —

**Mr P. Papalia:** Bring on the toilet rolls —

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** — to buy 10 new railcar sets.

**Mr P. Papalia:** — at least they were funny!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** The problem is, member for Warnbro, there is no money in here to pay for the drivers or the electricity! It costs \$2 million a year to run a train set up and down the line, so they can buy 10 cars but what are they going to do with them? What are they going to do with them? Leave them parked in the shed.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I think some of you want to stay in this place for something that is going to happen after question time—I am presuming some of you do. I am hearing some of you more than I am hearing from some others. I am trying to be subtle, but I am suggesting that if people want to be called to order they should continue in the same way, member for Victoria Park.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I just want to finish with my last reflection on Labor public transport policy. It came last week on Thursday, 13 September.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Let me read this, member for Cannington.

This was in response to the government announcing the route of the train line through to the airport and on to Forrestfield—a very important announcement. The shadow Minister for Transport was on the radio, and this is what he said—just listen to this —

... what I would love to see is a rail line that actually runs along Tonkin Highway from Forrestfield to Ellenbrook ...

“I am going to build a railway line from Forrestfield to Ellenbrook”, and —

... I would be proposing that we get on with it straight away and build it in the next term of Government

So here is the Labor transport spokesperson, in a magnificent stroke of public transport planning genius, deciding that he is going to spend \$2.5 billion linking up the two most marginal seats in the eastern suburbs with heavy rail! It is fantastic!

Several members interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I will table it; it is here!

Leader of the Opposition, I look forward —

**The SPEAKER:** I thought it was a fairly simple question; a lot of people are wishing to prolong it unnecessarily. I will ask you to conclude your answer, minister. If you are going to table a document, I will ask you to do that as well.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I will table the document, because I would like to see the Leader of the Opposition’s new shiny document with the Ellenbrook–Forrestfield railway line on it. I could imagine the folks in Ellenbrook getting up and thinking: “Thank heavens; if we get a Labor government we can get on the train, and for a day out we can go down to Forrestfield”, or vice versa. The good folk of Forrestfield will be out there celebrating in the streets! “For a day out next year we’re going to go to Ellenbrook”! But to help the Leader of the Opposition do his big new shiny brochure for his new initiative from Ellenbrook to Forrestfield, I have started it for him. This can be the cover: there is Kenny Travers, and, more importantly, there is the price tag, Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, I formally call you to order for the first time today. Member for Victoria Park, I formally call you to order for the second time today. Minister for Transport, you indicated you would table a document.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Here is my map to help them, which I happily table.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Warnbro!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Here is the transcript from Thursday, 13 September on 6PR with Rob Broadfield and Hon Ken Travers.

[See papers 5238 and 5239.]