

BUNBURY–GREENBUSHES RAIL LINE — LITHIUM MINING

458. Hon DIANE EVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Bearing in mind that Labor members of Parliament have been on record as supporting a review of south west rail transport when in opposition and acknowledging the anticipated increase in lithium mining in the south west and the associated extensive increase in the number of trucks to transport lithium by road to plants in Kwinana, I ask the following.

- (1) Is the government planning to reopen the Bunbury–Greenbushes rail line to facilitate the rail freight of lithium from the mine in Greenbushes?
- (2) If yes to (1), when is this likely to occur?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?
- (4) If no to (1), will the government consider a plan to reopen the line?
- (5) Does the government still own the land that the rail line occupies?
- (6) Is this line leased to Arc Infrastructure?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1) The Public Transport Authority is aware that the Talison Lithium joint venture and Arc Infrastructure are in negotiations on the rail task, which may result in returning the Bunbury–Greenbushes rail line to operating condition.
- (2) The time frame will be set out by the Talison Lithium joint venture and Arc Infrastructure.
- (3)–(4) Not applicable.
- (5) The rail corridor is owned by the state government.
- (6) Yes.