

METRONET PROJECTS

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented investment in job-creating public transport infrastructure through Metronet.

- (1) Can the minister please update the house on the progress of new train stations being built as part of Metronet and how they are supporting local jobs and businesses?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of any alternative approaches to our transport future?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for the question.

- (1)–(2) It has been a big summer for Metronet. If the member for Swan Hills were to look at the Ellenbrook train station, she would see that the structure is there and the platform is being built. People can already step onto the platform at Ellenbrook. It is an incredible achievement to have the new Ellenbrook train station well underway. The structure is there and the platform is being built. It is an incredible sight, and I am sure that everyone who goes past there understands it is this government that is delivering such a major initiative.

At Whiteman Park piers have been installed for the elevated station. The connection will go right through into the suburb of Brabham and support the new housing developments that are being built as a joint venture between DevelopmentWA and Peet. The developments will mean affordable housing within a few hundred metres of the brand new Whiteman Park train station. Member for Morley, the piling has commenced, and the platform is being built for the new Noranda train station. At Yanchep, we have seen that progress is well underway, and the member for Butler is very excited by it. The work on the stations at Yanchep and Alkimos is very much underway.

Mr P. Papalia: He has so many stations he loses track.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He loses track of how many stations he has, but we were commenting on how big and magnificent the Alkimos train station is looking. A lot of work is happening in Bayswater —

Mr R.S. Love: For a very long time.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: How would the member for Moore know? When he looks out his window? Obviously, when he looks out the window, he sees it.

I want to talk about Bayswater; thanks for the interjection. When the former government committed funds to the Forrestfield–Airport Link, do members know what it committed to Bayswater station? It committed just \$4 million for a new ramp. It was going to leave Bayswater as a station lost in the 1960s, like the opposition's policies. That is what it was doing. We came in and we have upgraded the station. It will be magnificent but, of course, there is disruption. Yes, it will be announced that there will be a closure of the rail line. Again, we apologise for the disruption because of those closures, but we really need to have that closure to—amongst other things—build two kilometres of track connecting to the new piers and to demolish the old Bayswater Bridge, which will be a big, big day. It will be a big day when we demolish the Bayswater Bridge.

We also announced that during the week we submitted the development approval application for the beautiful new Midland station. We have also released some of the sketches for the public open space underneath the new elevated rail through Victoria Park, and we will see a lot of activity and a lot of beautiful community amenity.

Of course, we know the other side does not support it. As of yesterday, the opposition was calling Metronet a vanity project. How can the member for Moore, the Leader of the Opposition, appeal to densely populated areas when he keeps knocking projects like Metronet? Surely, when he looks out the window in the morning, he thinks, “Wow! This is great infrastructure for the state!” Surely, he thinks that. Of course, we know the Liberal Party —

Mr R.S. Love: You think you're going to deliver the Armadale line on time. You have not delivered anything on time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: At least we are delivering something.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! Members! Leader of the Opposition, this is not your question. I am going to ask the minister if she could draw her answer to a close, please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I was at a *Business News* presentation on Friday, and someone asked me about MAX light rail.

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I said that, unlike the other side, we deliver on our commitments. We are delivering all our rail lines. I know that the other side does not support Metronet. Of course, it was the member for Vasse who put forward the flying cars concept in opposition, and she wanted to take it to the election. As we look at our Perth parking — Several members interjected.

Point of Order

The SPEAKER: Points of order are to be heard in silence.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I ask you to consider the relevance of the minister's response and also the length of time she is taking to get to the point.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: You interjected!

The SPEAKER: Minister, I will ask you one last time to wrap up your answer, please.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Okay. I will wrap it up. I am reading from an article dated 12 March 2021. Josh Zimmerman wrote the article, and I hope the member for Vasse is not saying he is a liar. This is referring to the member for Vasse —

She also allegedly told party members the State Government needed to commission the feasibility study “for where and how to construct heliports for flying cars”

The good thing is that, as we review the Perth parking levy, the member for Vasse can put forward helipads for flying cars, and we will take that into consideration as we reform our legislation.