

METRONET — BAYSWATER TRAIN STATION

263. Ms L.L. BAKER to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan government's record investment in job creation and congestion-busting public transport infrastructure.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress of works at the Metronet Bayswater train station, particularly what it means for local commuters, public transport patronage in WA and the Morley–Ellenbrook line?
- (2) Most importantly, can she comment on the bittersweet demise of our infamous Bayswater Bridge?

Mr R.S. Love: And the effect on the businesses for the extended lengthy process.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Dr A.D. Buti: He's come back very angry!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

Yes, he is a very angry member, is he not?

The SPEAKER: Minister for Education, you have come back very talkative after the break!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I would rather talkative than angry, member; just remember that!

- (1)–(2) Of course, over the past month we have seen the sad loss of a WA icon, the Bayswater Bridge. On 14 April, we marked the demolition of the Bayswater Bridge. The bridge sent shudders through the hearts of truck drivers throughout the state. We know that many a truck met its downfall at the Bayswater Bridge. Not only did we demolish the existing bridge, but also we held a community open day. There were thousands of people—I am telling members there were thousands of people—so much so that the team had to go to Spudshed to buy more sausages for the sausage sizzle that day! There were thousands of people there to celebrate the end of the Bayswater Bridge. During the community day, we met the architects not of the bridge but of the website that celebrated the bridge, Vin and Ender. They informed me that there were only three bridges in the nation that had a dedicated website.

Ms L.L. Baker: In the world.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: In the world actually, I think. There is the Montague Street Bridge in Victoria, the Bayswater Bridge here and I cannot remember the third.

Ms L.L. Baker: I think it is in Belgium.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Belgium? Vin, one of the architects of the website, came back from Melbourne for the day.

The demolition of the bridge has made way for the brand new Bayswater Bridge, which is much higher and much stronger and will not allow trucks to crash into it in future years. Again, I thank all community members for their patience during the period that we shut the Midland rail line. We have seen the relocation of the rail line onto the new bridge structure. We have seen the demolition of the old station and we have also seen 1.8 kilometres of new alignment on railway bridges. Those works are well underway. The station building is well underway. We will see a complete transformation of the area. It is very well supported by the community—thousands of people. Again, we apologise for the disruption. We are working with local businesses and the community, but this is a complete transformation. We have never before seen this amount of investment in these areas to support local businesses and provide new residential opportunities to allow Bayswater to move into the future and not be stuck in the 1960s. It will embrace the new infrastructure, new residential developments and business opportunities for existing and new businesses.

I thank the community for coming out and enjoying the day. I thank the member for Maylands for helping manage all the local issues. It is a great achievement. I thank all the workers who worked tirelessly over those 30 days to manage the shut and to make sure that we could reopen the rail line.