

METRONET — ARMADALE RAIL LINE — SHUTDOWN

**670. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's record investment in job-creating, congestion-busting public transport infrastructure.

- (1) Can the minister please update the house on the transformation of the Armadale line through Metronet, including the removal of 13 level crossings and the building of seven stations?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on how regular public transport users will be supported during construction?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Thornlie for the question.

- (1)–(2) Of course, the member was down at Thornlie station recently to see the removal of the wall that will connect Thornlie right through to Cockburn. It is a major milestone for the Thornlie–Cockburn Link. It is a very old rail line, which is basically very outdated. We have stations that are no longer fit for purpose and we have level crossings along the line. Many of those level crossings hold up traffic for up to four to six hours a day, with the boom gates coming down over 200 times a day. As a result, we are undertaking the biggest transformation of the Armadale line in its history. It includes elevated rail through Victoria Park and Cannington, with new stations along the way; the Thornlie–Cockburn Link, which comes off the line through Beckenham; the extension of the rail line through to Byford; and a new Armadale train station. It is a complete transformation.

As has been outlined, 13 level crossings are going and seven new stations are being built. The Thomas Road over-rail bridge is now open, member for Darling Range. It has four lanes and the level crossing was removed, which has made the Thomas Road intersection much safer for all those involved. The Thornlie station works are well underway and the new bus interchanges at Victoria Park, Armadale and Cannington are now complete. More than 200 additional bus drivers and 100 additional buses will be brought into the system to replace the train service as we shut down for 18 months. Importantly, to ensure that we do everything possible to move people from the train onto the replacement buses, we are offering up to 16 700 regular users of the Armadale train line up to six months of free public transport from the relevant stations. This will save regular users up to \$1 300 for that period. This is all about making sure that we do everything possible to deliver the biggest transformation of the Armadale line in its history, but to do it in a way so that regular passengers have both alternative services and a free service for six months to encourage them to try those services.

Of course, members of the opposition believe that this transformation should not be happening. They do not like the south east corridor; that is why they never spent any money on it when they were in government. They ignored the south east corridor. What I find increasingly interesting about the opposition is who is the shadow Minister for Transport. Remember, we have the one we think is the shadow Minister for Transport—the one sitting in this chamber—and then we have the shadow shadow Minister for Transport who spoke at the Cottesloe traffic forum last weekend. Unfortunately, I did not attend that.

**Mr J.N. Carey:** Were you invited?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** No, I was not invited.

**Mr R.S. Love:** That's just repetition. You've gone over that.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** No; there is a new one!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** There is a theme. Of course, we also have the shadow shadow shadow Minister for Transport, Hon Tjorn Sibma. There are three shadow Ministers for Transport.

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** There are three shadow Ministers for Transport. They have no transport policies. Between the three of them, one of them could develop a policy. They have no transport policies and, of course, they oppose key infrastructure in areas like the south east corridor, which the previous government completely ignored.