

ELLENBROOK RAIL LINK — GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

160. Ms R. Saffioti to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to your election commitment to build a rail line to Ellenbrook, and ask:

- (a) is the current Government still committed to this project, and if not, why not;
- (b) when will the master planning begin;
- (c) will construction of the rail line begin by 2012; and
- (d) what is the timeframe of the rail line's completion?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

- (a)-(d) An election commitment of the Government includes planning for a rail service to Ellenbrook.

Commensurate with that commitment the Public Transport Authority is completing the necessary documentation to call tenders by mid December 2008 for a consultancy to define a railway route from Ellenbrook to link with the Perth — Midland railway.

The definition of this route will be completed by mid 2009 and will be to the standard necessary for inclusion of a reservation in statutory plans such as the Metropolitan Region Scheme. This is the first necessary step before a Railway Enabling Act can be prepared.

As part of the route definition, other matters that will be considered include preliminary evaluation of operational amalgamation with existing services, projected patronage levels, station location and accessibility to the railway, rolling stock requirements, general integration with land use including social, environmental and heritage issues and finally an estimated cost of the proposal.

Once the above work is completed the Government will be much better informed with respect to the cost of the proposal and the timing for its implementation.

Master planning can be instituted once the timing for implementation has been established.