

METRONET — ARMADALE RAIL LINE

57. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's delivery of transformational public transport infrastructure through Metronet.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress of the Armadale line transformation, including key projects like the new Carlisle station?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house what the delivery of this project means for local jobs and people living in our south-eastern suburbs?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Thornlie for that question. Today I was out with the member for Victoria Park inspecting the work that has been delivered through Victoria Park and Cannington as part of the level crossing removal project. Of course, member for Darling Range and member for Armadale, work is underway, too, on the extension of the rail line to Byford and the new stations at Armadale and Byford. The progress is staggering. Already, 150 metres of elevated rail has been built along Carlisle Street. Today, in a sense, we saw the commencement of the new Carlisle train station. The elevated rail has been built and, as part of that project, the teams are now together onsite to build the new Carlisle train station. There are train stations coupled with what is happening at Oats Street, out at Cannington, Queens Park, Beckenham and through to Armadale and Byford. There will be new train stations in that area.

It is a massive job, which is employing thousands of workers. As part of the project, six hectares of land underneath the new elevated rail will be opened up. That means there will be new facilities throughout the corridor, new public open space and new recreational and sporting facilities for children across the area.

I want to again thank the public for their patience and acknowledge the disruption that is occurring. In particular, I thank all those people who have moved from trains onto our bus services. The rail replacement figures are staggering. Throughout the summer of free public transport, around 90 per cent of those who would normally catch the train moved onto buses. Currently, over 80 per cent of those who were on trains are on replacement buses. That is a staggering number. Let me compare it with what was forecast by the opposition spokesperson against Metronet, Hon Tjorn Sibma. He stated that if recent experience is any guide, approximately two-thirds of rail passengers would move onto buses, creating chaos in our streets. That is completely incorrect. Over 80 per cent of those who were catching trains have moved onto rail replacement buses.

I thank, in particular, all the workers who are out there. It has been a tough time to be on worksites, building projects. Of course, around the state, whatever the project, it has been very hot out there in the sun building our infrastructure. I thank those workers. It is incredible to see the progress that has been made on the level crossing removal project.