

METRONET — VICTORIA PARK–CANNING LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL

156. Ms H.M. BEAZLEY to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in transformational public transport infrastructure and road safety projects.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress of the Metronet Victoria Park–Canning level crossing removal project?
- (2) Can the minister advise whether she is aware of anyone who is opposed to this transformational project?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I reckon there are some people opposed to this transformation —

Mr D.R. Michael interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Balcatta, this is nowhere near your area.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes, but he loves Metronet and he loves our rail level crossing removal project.

I thank the member for the question. Of course we are making fantastic progress on the level crossing removals throughout Cannington and Victoria Park as part of our Metronet project. Over 100 L-beams have been produced for the project, which will form the viaduct that trains will travel through once this rail line is elevated. We are building them at a blistering pace. I thank all the workers out there producing 20 beams a week. That is the most ever produced in WA. Last week we unveiled the designs for the new Cannington and Queens Park stations, member for Cannington. They are beautiful and they will help revitalise the area. The new stations will feature six-car platforms, universal access and bicycle parking. The Cannington station will have a new 16-stand bus interchange, parking for 90 bicycles and 290 parking bays. Of course, Queens Park station is very close to Hamilton Street and will also have parking available for cars and bikes. Importantly, the Hamilton and Wharf Street level crossings will be removed. The Hamilton Street level crossing closes 230 times a day for a total of three hours and 57 minutes. Wharf Street closes 224 times a day for a total of six hours and 25 minutes. This is infrastructure that is much-needed in that corridor. Comments from the locals include, "At last, needed updates to infrastructure for our older suburbs." They are due some love, members.

It is no surprise that on this side we support these transformational projects, but, of course, the opposition, the Nationals WA, does not support this project. It is in a tricky period, because we know that it now has a policy to appeal and campaign in densely populated areas. Its members are in this tricky period whereby they built their entire life criticising the metropolitan area and the suburbs. They have always rejected any funding for the suburbs, but now they want to campaign in densely populated areas. Does the Leader of the Opposition support the Metronet extension to Yanchep?

Mr R.S. Love: Yes.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Whoa!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Do you support the elevated rail through Victoria Park and Cannington?

The SPEAKER: Minister, this is an opportunity for other members to ask you questions.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As I said, they are in a tricky period, because only a couple of weeks ago, they still had "Metrodebt" stickers on their vehicles. I understand they have been pulling them off. There are still some remnants there.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Get the little scraper under there!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Glad Wrap and the sponges have been out there trying to rip off those "Metrodebt" stickers.

Mr D.A. Templeman: I wondered why you went to Bunnings!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: For a giant roll of Glad Wrap, sponges and Morning Fresh.

Now we are seeing questions about metropolitan projects in the upper house from the National Party, asking about some intersections around Wanneroo. That is interesting, members. They want us to invest more money in the suburbs. Is that right, Leader of the Opposition? He is asking about it and he wants to see us invest more money in the suburbs.

Mr R.S. Love: This is an interesting way of answering questions.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It has been quite enjoyable, actually.

We have the National Party, whose members have spent their entire life criticising expenditure in the suburbs, and now they are asking questions in the upper house, such as “Why don’t you spend more money in the suburbs? Why don’t you spend more money in the part of, maybe, Wanneroo?” and those northern areas that might flow into the Leader of the Opposition’s seat. Who knows?

As I said, we have a Metronet bumper sticker for densely populated areas. I am happy to give it to the Leader of the Opposition. I am happy to give him those Metronet stickers. Come on board, have the right bumper stickers and support our projects throughout Western Australia.