

METRONET — SOUTHERN SUBURBS RAIL PROJECTS

**567. Mr H.T. JONES to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to creating better public transport connections across Perth suburbs.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the delivery of significant rail projects in Perth's southern suburbs, which includes the Metronet Byford rail extension?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of any alternative proposals to improve public transport services in Perth?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Darling Range for that question.

- (1)–(2) Of course, there is a lot of excitement in that corridor for the Armadale line extension to Byford. As the member knows, Byford is very much a growing community and it needs world-class public transport. This government will be delivering world-class transport to Byford. The concept images have been released for comment. They look incredible. There will be three platforms to service both the Armadale line and *Australind* passengers; a bus interchange, with seven stands to support connecting services; 400 parking bays; secure shelters for around 100 bicycles; and spaces for meeting and recreation, with lighting, shelter and CCTV.

When completed, it will be a 42-minute trip to the city and, of course, at the cost of a two-zone fare. It will connect Byford to the suburban rail network, connecting the community to more opportunities. We have seen already the investment along Thomas Road and we will continue the investment along the entire corridor. I know that the people in the member for Darling Range's area are very keen to see this project delivered.

We know what opposition members have said about Metronet over the years. They have criticised it, campaigned against it and said that we should not be doing these projects. Those on the other side called the Armadale rail line extension a vanity project. I think the tune from Nationals WA members in particular is going to change a bit, because they are now going after densely populated areas. Over the weekend, we saw them at their state conference in the metropolitan area, not in regional WA.

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** Out your way—the Swan Valley.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** As the member for Roe interjected, it was out my way in the Swan Valley. That is my pivot, so I am glad the member picked that up.

Of course, they were in the Swan Valley. I know that the member for Central Wheatbelt hosted a wine tour and the member for Roe hosted a golfing tour, but the Liberal and National Parties could not agree on who would drive the golf buggy, so they walked instead. I went through the golf course just to see whether there was anything left behind, as I do. Members know that I tend to do that—whether it is the car park or the golf course.

The “metrodebt” stickers have been taken off their cars; they like Metronet now, because they are going after densely populated areas. There will be no more “metrodebt” stickers; they have been taken off their cars. Remember, just a couple of weeks ago, the Leader of the Opposition was wearing a Liberal Party hat.

**Mr R.S. Love:** You made that up!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** There it was—strewn on the floor. It was just discarded on the floor. I picked up the Liberal Party hat and thought, “Jeez, the National Party has discarded the Liberal Party hat.” Now of course we have the conversion—they are loving the big smoke. Members of the National Party are now very much city-bound. They are targeting densely populated areas. This just blew my mind. I saw a comment from the Leader of the Opposition who said, “The people of Western Australia deserve to have a public transport system that rivals the rest of the country's.” We are. It is called Metronet.

There was a special little booth that I came across. It was a National Party merchandise booth. They were getting rid of these hats—I can tell you that! They were discounted. They were getting rid of the “metrodebt” stickers. Here it is—the new “MetroNats” hat! It is the new hat for the National Party. He talks about excellent public transport and the National Party in metropolitan WA. These are for sale at the merchandise store. I am glad I picked one up. I am sure there will be plenty for all of us in this room!