

METRONET — PROGRESS

467. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to this WA Labor government's record investment in public transport infrastructure.

- (1) Can the minister please update the house on the government's signature Metronet program and—on something you may be very interested in, Madam Speaker—recent milestones like the Midland station sod turn?
- (2) Can the minister explain the level of support for public transport in the WA community?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for that question. I also acknowledge the students from Roleystone Community College, which is my old school. Welcome to the gallery. It was called Roleystone District High School when I went many, many years ago.

Mr R.H. Cook: How many years ago? Many, many!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Many, many years ago—I will give members a hint!

Mr D.A. Templeman: Is your name on a plaque up there?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is. There is a name on a plaque there. I was one of the first students to arrive at the school when it was built many, many years ago. I went from year 5 to year 10. Welcome to the gallery!

In relation to public transport, of course, no government has invested as much in public transport as this one. We continue to achieve the milestones on Metronet. Recently, Madam Speaker, the Premier and I turned the sod for the new Midland train station. The train station will have three platforms, a new multistorey car park, a new dedicated regional rail platform, a new shared path and bike facilities. It will be a brand new station that will better service people wanting to access the city centre and the hospital in particular. It will be a brand new station at a new location. There will be a new bus interchange and multistorey car park.

Of course, there are works underway everywhere. New railcars are being tested on the Joondalup and Mandurah lines. There are new beams—80 per cent of the L-beams for our new elevated rail through Cannington and Victoria Park have already been produced. We are seeking final approvals for new stations like Cannington and Queens Park stations. We are working on the planning and delivery of the Byford extension and the new Armadale station and the level crossings removals there. There are the new Alkimos and Yanchep stations. There are the Thornlie–Cockburn Link and the Ellenbrook rail line. Those projects are very much well underway and in the serious stage of delivery.

I also want to acknowledge the new member for Rockingham. We know that the member for Rockingham's constituents love public transport. Of course, a Labor government built the Mandurah rail line. A Labor government cut public transport fares to Rockingham from \$8.50 to \$5.10. We have also recently introduced fare-free Sundays on the first Sunday of every month. I know that when the member for Rockingham was out there campaigning, she promoted Labor's record on public transport, and that is just another reason why she is sitting here in this chamber. The member for Rockingham was not here yesterday when I highlighted that the Leader of the Liberal Party claimed victory in the Rockingham by-election. I am glad the member for Rockingham is here today because I was not dreaming, we did win the by-election and of course she is here in this chamber. It is always good to see who turns up to the polling booths on by-election days. It was great to see the puppet-master himself, the kingmaker, Hon Nick Goiran. The former member for Darling Range made an appearance.

Ms J.J. Shaw: She parks in disabled bays!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That is harsh!

The SPEAKER: Order, please members!

Ms L. Mettam: So much to learn!

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: There we are. "So much to learn", says the leader who with a 17.8 per cent primary vote went out and claimed victory in the Rockingham by-election!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: They are a bit touchy today! Of course, there was another surprising thing that we saw on by-election day. Remember, we have the Nationals WA.

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: Point of order.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Just wait until people are quiet. I just need to remind members, quite obviously, that points of order are taken in silence. I would like to hear the point of order.

Mr R.S. LOVE: The question is referring to transport matters, and all we have heard about for the last three minutes is by-election results. I ask that the minister be asked to come back to provide an answer that is relevant to the question.

The SPEAKER: I do not believe that your argument is entirely accurate; we have heard about more in the last three minutes than by-election results. I will, however, draw the minister's attention to the question at hand and ask her to be brief in concluding her response.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Sure. The question asked us whether the public supports public transport, and we ran a very strong public transport campaign in the Rockingham by-election. But I refer to the Leader of the Opposition. Remember that the Leader of the Opposition wants to appeal to densely populated areas. There he was with a Liberal Party hat at the Rockingham by-election. I will give the Leader of the Opposition a tip. If I wanted to appeal to densely populated areas, I would not be wearing a Liberal Party hat!