

NORTH GREENBUSHES-BUNBURY RAIL LINE

841. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Regional Development:

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I would not say too much if I were the Treasurer. I would not open my mouth if I were the Treasurer.

The SPEAKER: I want to hear the question.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I refer to the coalition's election promise to resurrect the North Greenbushes to Bunbury rail freight line.

- (1) Has the entire North Greenbushes to Bunbury rail line project been deferred?
- (2) When does the minister expect the Greenbushes to Bunbury rail line improvements to begin, and when will the project be complete?
- (3) What are the latest cost estimates for this project, and has the Treasurer agreed to put the necessary funding into the forthcoming midyear review?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:

- (1)-(3) I can guarantee members opposite that the chance of any upgrade of regional rail is much more likely under our government than it ever was under their government. We have yet another example of a key project for the member for Collie-Preston's electorate that he thinks is more likely to get done now that he is in opposition. After eight years in government the previous government had record budget surpluses, but the member did nothing about the Greenbushes line, he did nothing about delivering mobile communications to his electorate and he did nothing to fix the racetrack in Collie. Members know that he is a great lover of horseracing, but that work will now be covered by royalties for regions. Nothing was done in Collie because of the member's inability to get anything done. The member now sits in opposition and he knows that with this government's focus on regional development it is now more likely that things will happen in his electorate. Without notice of that question, I do not have the exact details. I do know —

Mr P.B. Watson: Have you looked in the mirror?

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany!

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: The member for Albany had a relevant character assessment done earlier today, and if I were him, I would consider that before he makes any further comments.

It is my understanding, without having the document in front of me, that the Greenbushes railway is still listed in the budget and an allocation of \$19.45 million remains in that budget.

Mr M.P. Murray: When are you going to do it?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: The previous government did not include it in the budget, but this government has provided for it in the budget. Work is continuing on this. Members opposite might not know that there has been a major upheaval in the woodchip industry involving Great Southern and Timbercorp. It would be prudent for the government to work through the challenges in the industry, which will be the major user of that line, before any commitment is made. If the member for Collie-Preston wants that rail line built, I suggest that he has more chance of it being done under this government.