

ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

206. Ms L.L. BAKER to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the major announcement on Sunday about the tracks being laid for the Morley–Ellenbrook line.

- (1) Could the minister outline to the house the history of the Morley–Ellenbrook line project?
- (2) Could the minister tell the house whether she is aware of any recent commentary on the project or the broader Metronet project?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members of the opposition, I ask government members not to interrupt while your questions are being asked, and I ask you to pay the same courtesy to government backbenchers when they ask a question.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for that question.

- (1)–(2) On Sunday, as the Premier outlined, we reached a major milestone on the Morley–Ellenbrook line. Over a kilometre of track has now been laid on that project. Of course, it is a project that Labor has supported from day one, and we are so proud to be delivering it. Labor is delivering where the Liberal Party failed.

I nearly choked on my pasta on Sunday night when I saw the Liberal Party commentary on the Ellenbrook rail line, trying to claim credit for it! The opposition spokesperson claimed that of the Metronet projects, there have not been too many that were not first thought of, planned or funded by the Liberal Party. That commentary did not match my recollection of events, so I did some research and stumbled across a source document called *A Liberal history of the Ellenbrook line*.

Ms S.F. McGurk: Has it got anything in it?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It does. I will go through it to outline the Liberal history on the Ellenbrook rail line. Do members remember when the then candidate for Swan Hills sent out a flyer saying that the Liberal Party would deliver the Ellenbrook rail line? The then opposition leader, Colin Barnett, said that it was the next logical extension. In government, the Liberal transport minister said there was a commitment to build the Ellenbrook rail line, and then in the midyear review, the then Treasurer, Troy Buswell, said that it was in the budget and they were going to commence it in 2010–11. Then, of course, they started changing the wording. The then transport minister said that they were going to “plan” to build the Ellenbrook rail line. The then Premier said it would be a second term commitment; they were not going to do it in their first term, but in their second term. Of course, in 2016, when the Liberal Party announced its transport plan, it said that Ellenbrook would not need a rail line until at least 2050!

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I will keep going. After that, of course, we won the election. The true feelings of the Liberal Party came out when the then opposition leader said it would take a genius to come up with a business case to justify the Ellenbrook rail line!

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: Point of order.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Sorry, minister! Points of order are heard in silence.

Mr R.S. LOVE: The minister is clearly reading from a document that purports to be a Liberal document but is not, and she is in fact using a prop. I am inquiring whether she has your permission to use that prop and whether she is using it in the way that she indicated she would, because this is going to be a very lengthy response to a Dorothy Dixier.

The SPEAKER: There are two parts to that.

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Maylands, I am speaking.

Firstly, the minister sought and got permission from me earlier today to use that document, so, yes, she does have permission to refer to that document in answering her question. Secondly, her reference to the document seems to be in accord with the question asked by the member for Maylands. On those two fronts, I will not be calling the

minister to order at all. On the final little remark the Leader of the Opposition made about it being lengthy, that could be of concern to me. If the answer is too lengthy, I will draw that to the minister's attention. Minister, you may continue.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: There are three question times' worth of commentary on this one, but I will wrap up soon!

Of course, the then opposition transport spokesperson, Liza Harvey, said the project did not stack up and called it marginal-seat politics. Since that time, we have seen the Leader of the Opposition trying to scratch off the "Metrodebt" stickers in the car park. We have heard the member for Central Wheatbelt call Metronet "pet projects". We had the Leader of the Liberal Party stand outside and say that the Ellenbrook rail line should not be built under the plan that the government is delivering and that it should be changed or, possibly, delayed forever.

Members, we are delivering the Ellenbrook rail line. My last point is that after I had finished my pasta and was tucking into my tiramisu, I heard the opposition spokesperson say, "I'll believe it when I see it." I tell members what: as big as the project is, members cannot see it from the gardens of Parliament House! I urge members of the Liberal Party to stand in the middle of Ellenbrook with their Liberal Party posters and talk about the Ellenbrook rail line. If they had the guts, they would go out there and hold their press conference in the middle of Ellenbrook and talk about their history with the Ellenbrook rail line.