

KENWICK TRAIN STATION — UPGRADE

174. Hon SAMANTHA ROWE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

In January 2013 the then Minister for Transport announced a \$6.5 million upgrade to Kenwick train station. In February 2014 the then minister announced that the project would cost WA taxpayers \$7.5 million. Can the government confirm the \$1 million cost blowout, and, if so, the reasons for it?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

The Liberal–National government makes no apologies for improving the quality of public transport provided in the East Metropolitan Region. Since the election of the Liberal–National government in 2008, bus services have increased significantly with an unprecedented level of service–kilometre growth; the largest train station car parking upgrade program has been completed; and a new train line connecting Forrestfield to the CBD will be delivered.

The member may also be interested to know that the Kenwick station upgrade will deliver new shelters, disability compliance, better lighting and closed-circuit television. This project follows upgrades at Queens Park, Maddington and Beckenham, with a total investment of \$24.6 million on the Armadale line.

The basis for the variation in project cost is between the initial estimate and the actual tender price. The final project cost is a result of escalation since the initial cost estimation and the award at current market rates.