

METRONET — PROJECTS

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

I refer to the Cook Labor government's record investment in transport infrastructure across Western Australia, which is creating thousands of local jobs.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress of key Metronet projects, including the Morley–Ellenbrook line and the Armadale line transformation?
- (2) Can the minister outline how this compares with the records of the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question. It has been a big summer period for Metronet and public transport. We have just emerged from the summer of free public transport, and we have also seen a number of milestones met along the way. I was with the member for Butler just before Christmas when we went on the first test train on the Yanchep railway line. The member for Butler would agree that rapid progress is being made on the Yanchep rail line and we are seeing some incredible stations at Alkimos, Yanchep and Eglinton. Progress is being made and it is very much nearly completed.

With the Armadale rail line transformation, we saw how quickly the existing stations were demolished. The existing railway lines were ripped up and the new viaduct is being built. All those who can see the work know that a big thanks is owed to all those workers who have been out there in the heat over the past month in particular delivering this transformational project. There are sections of elevated railway there and a lot of work has been done in Byford through to Armadale, Cannington and Victoria Park.

The Ellenbrook railway line is nearing completion and again progress has been made on the stations, the rail track is being laid and the overhead pantograph is being set up. We had an exciting announcement on the weekend. As part of the Ellenbrook railway line, we will create an improved visitor experience at Whiteman Park. One of the things about Whiteman Park is that it is very big, and we want to make sure that visitors and Western Australians alike can experience the many, many different beautiful museums and experiences in Whiteman Park. As well as the incredible Whiteman Park station, we are connecting Whiteman Park into Whiteman Park proper. We asked all the companies we are working with to contribute to the project, including ACCIONA Construction, Alstom, Arc Infrastructure, BMD Constructions, Georgiou Group and Laing O'Rourke. We are working with North Metropolitan TAFE, Minister for Training and Workforce Development. Those who have been training in Midland will come out and help weld the track. Again, it is a great experience for those undertaking rail courses at North Metro TAFE. We will see a great connection.

One of the best aspects of this project is the heritage tram connection, as I said, whereby we are combining the old and the new—the brand new Whiteman Park station with the old tram. It is the tram that ran on the Inglewood line. Tram number 66 will be the first tram that runs on the line. We are combining the old and the new. Unlike the Liberal Party, which just discards older assets, we combine the old and the new. We are very proud of that combination.

This is the biggest transformation of the public transport system in the state's history. The opposition believed that we should not have an Ellenbrook rail line until 2050 and we should not build the Yanchep extension until 2031. Although it committed to the Ellenbrook rail line and Metro Area Express light rail, it completely abandoned its commitments. Over the Christmas period and during the “Summer of Free Public Transport”, people were very willing to use our public transport as a cost-of-living measure, not just on the free Sundays but also because of the two-zone fare cap. This is making sure that Western Australians have an affordable way to travel around our community. The progress is there to see. This is a very exciting year for Metronet, everybody.