

METRO AREA EXPRESS LIGHT RAIL — TREASURER'S COMMENTS

607. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Treasurer's claim that Metro Area Express light rail was cancelled because its cost started blowing out.

- (1) What was the estimated blowout in cost for MAX light rail?
- (2) Can the minister provide details of the components of the project that have increased and how much they are estimated to have increased?
- (3) What is the most recent estimated total cost for the MAX light rail project provided to the minister and when was it calculated?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

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

- (1)–(3) The original cost estimate for MAX light rail was \$1.882 billion. The three-year deferral would have caused the cost estimate to increase to over \$2 billion, primarily due to escalation. Transport@3.5 million has identified better transport options that are available to service the northern corridor. Details will be disclosed upon the launch of Transport@3.5 million.