

MERREDIN TRAIN STATION — ACCESSIBILITY

**149. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the minister's announcement made back in November 2021 that funding would be provided to deliver a raised safe access platform at Merredin railway station to be completed by April 2022.

- (1) Why has work not commenced on a project that should have been completed nearly 12 months ago?
- (2) Given that the tender is due to expire in May 2023, is there any risk that the work will need to be re-tendered and blow out the completion time any further?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) One of the key issues has been the negotiations between the tenderer and Arc Infrastructure, because you know what? The Nationals WA sold the rail lines throughout regional WA. One of the issues has been the inability of the two parties to reach agreement on access to the works. I will tell the member this: around Western Australia, sometimes it is a bit tricky to negotiate with a third party to upgrade works to benefit the community because you privatised the rail lines, and then you shut them down! That is one of the key reasons those works were not delivered at the time we expected. We will continue to drive to deliver improvements in this area—again, improvements that even under eight and a half years of royalties for regions, while you were doing bumper stickers, you could not deliver basic infrastructure upgrades at rail lines.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I will wait for silence. I note that this is the last question, and I give the call to the member for Central Wheatbelt for a supplementary question.