

METRONET — BUS MANUFACTURING CONTRACT

158. MR S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Transport:

Can the minister outline to the house how this government's new bus manufacturing contract will support local business and secure the jobs of Western Australians; and, can she advise the house how these locally manufactured buses will support the McGowan Labor government's new Metronet train stations?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for that question. Yesterday, we were out in Malaga looking at the facility that is currently manufacturing —

Mr D.C. Nalder: Is this an expansion of buses?

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Who is the shadow Minister for Transport?

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Who is the shadow Minister for Transport? I am not quite sure.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Start again, minister, if you want to.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I thank the member for Forrestfield for that question and for how much he supports the bus network, locally manufactured buses and Metronet. What a strong advocate he is for the community, particularly the Forrestfield community.

Yesterday, I was out in Malaga at the facility where we announced the new contract for 900 Transperth buses over the next 10 years. As the question outlined, the contract is about supporting local workers and local businesses. We met two apprentices who are getting experience to make sure that they have long-term careers. We met Mick Iemma, who in 1999 started on the factory floor and is now in charge of the place. Supporting those local workers and the quality of the product was absolutely incredible to see. It is a \$549 million contract over 10 years—a successful partnership between Volgren and Volvo. The contract means 81 jobs for local employees and a further 80 through the local supply chain. Again, the contract means a modern and efficient bus network that all Western Australians should be proud of, supporting a local workforce and making sure that we create long-term sustainable careers for people in that place. It will be coupled with our infrastructure delivery for Metronet and our locally manufactured train strategy. It is about making long-term sustainable jobs for people in the community. The buses will service not only the member for Forrestfield's electorate, but also the new Metronet train stations as we move into more feeder bus services and build up to 18 train stations across the network, creating —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman, I call you to order for the second time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We have a transport plan and we are sticking to it—I know that the opposition is quite confused about that—that involves building Metronet stations and, of course, buses servicing those stations. It is an integrated and coordinated plan that makes sure that we address congestion in the future and support local workers and local businesses.