

METRONET PROJECTS

**821. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the state government's significant investment in Metronet and the 15 projects that it is delivering right across the state.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how Metronet is helping to create more local jobs and more opportunity for businesses, as well as helping connect more to our suburbs?
- (2) Can the member advise the house what challenges this government has had to overcome in delivering Metronet?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Belmont for that question. Across the suburbs, Metronet is steaming ahead. It is incredible to see the work that has been undertaken across the suburbs. But it is timely, as we approach the end of the parliamentary year, to give an update on some of those projects.

The Forrestfield–Airport Link: the track laying is complete, the stations are ready to go and now we are doing the final work on the overhead lines and, of course, the commissioning and testing.

The Denny Avenue level crossing removal, member for Armadale.

**Mr P. Papalia:** Waited 100 years!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** We have waited 100 years! But, of course, the Denny Avenue level crossing was removed, the Davis Road project has been punched through, and we are finalising the works under Albany Highway for the water pipes.

The Mandurah multistorey car park, member for Mandurah and member for Dawesville: work is very much complete and we will officially be opening that very soon.

Work on projects like the Ellenbrook rail line, members will be happy to know, is progressing very well. The dive structure under Tonkin Highway is underway. The work between the Tonkin medians is underway and works have begun on some key stations, like the Malaga train station.

The Thornlie–Cockburn Link and the Ranford Road Bridge: traffic has been switched and the Ranford Road Bridge, which is a huge benefit from the Thornlie–Cockburn Link, is nearly complete. We are undertaking service relocation and work has commenced on the station builds. The Yanchep rail extension: the clearing is complete, the works are underway at station sites, and work on some of those bridges has now commenced and is well underway. The pillars have been installed at the Bayswater station precinct. The Lakelands station clearing works are underway and, of course, the footings of the Thomas Road Bridge have taken shape.

Stage 1 of the Bellevue railcar manufacturing facility has been completed and stage 2 is underway, and we are currently manufacturing our first set of Western Australian railcars there.

For projects under procurement, we are in the final stages of procurement of the Victoria Park and Cannington level crossing removals, the Byford rail extension, the high-capacity signalling program and, of course, the new Midland station. We made some other commitments, like the Greenwood multistorey car park. Planning is well underway for that.

Across the electorates we are delivering on our commitments for Metronet, unlike the opposition, which broke its promises for the Ellenbrook rail line multiple times over two elections. The member for Southern River will remember the then government's promises about the Thornlie–Cockburn Link. We all know about the Metro Area Express light rail. The former government produced USB chargers shaped like MAX light rail but never delivered the rail line. The government produced the show bags before actually producing the project. It had all the propaganda, but never delivered MAX light rail.

Thousands of jobs and new industries are being created as a result of Metronet. Wherever people go, there will, of course, be some disruption, in particular due to the closure of the Mandurah railway line starting on 26 December. However, this is all about delivering new stations, new rail lines and more housing that is connected to opportunities and lower cost transport, and new active precincts for people to live in in the future. This is an amazing project. There is so much underway. Over the next two or three months we will see more progress and milestones in the delivery of this transformational project.