

METRONET — RAILCARS — BELLEVUE FACILITY

818. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's plan to grow the economy by investing in local manufacturing and bringing railcar manufacturing jobs back to WA.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the work being undertaken to deliver a new Metronet railcar manufacturing facility in Bellevue?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this project will create more jobs for Western Australians?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Belmont for that question. I also take the opportunity on behalf of the WA Parliament to congratulate Nat Fyfe for winning the Brownlow Medal. It is a very exciting time after poor South Fremantle did not do that well on the weekend. It was good to see Docker Nat Fyfe become the first Western Australian to win two Brownlow Medals. He is a true Western Australian champion and someone we can all be proud of.

- (1)–(2) WA can also be proud of railcar manufacturing, with our policy of bringing railcar manufacturing back to Western Australia. The tender to build the new Bellevue railcar manufacturing facility has now gone out. That facility will facilitate the local manufacturing of railcars here in WA. It is part of the overall budget. We will see a new facility that again will return railcar manufacturing to WA after the Liberal Party closed the Midland railway workshops in 1994. It was a key election commitment that we are delivering—a 180-metre long main building housing offices, storage areas and, of course, the workshops themselves that will facilitate local manufacturing and assembly. At least 246 railcars will be built and tested in this new facility; that is, 102 railcars to facilitate the expansion of Metronet and 144 railcars, which will replace the A-series. Negotiations continue to be finalised with the preferred tenderer, Alstom.

It is something that we are very proud of. It is something that the Liberal Party said could not be done in WA. We know that the Liberal Party opposes everything we do when it comes to Metronet. It is out there campaigning against the Ellenbrook rail line. I am surprised that it is not out there bagging for Queensland and overseas jobs when it comes to railcar manufacturing. I am surprised that the member for Vasse has not created a hashtag “Save Queensland jobs” yet because she opposes everything we do. The Liberal Party aligns itself with all the opponents when it comes to Metronet. As we can see, it will be seen as a party that opposes Metronet and every component of it that we are delivering.