

RAILCARS — BELLEVUE FACILITY

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion recovery plan that includes a significant investment in bringing local manufacturing back to WA.

Can the minister advise the house how this government's investment in a new diesel maintenance facility at Bellevue will create more local job and training opportunities for Western Australians and can the minister outline to the house how this government's commitment to local manufacturing compares with that of the Liberal opposition?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for that question and for his commitment to local manufacturing.

The creation of jobs has been and continues to be the number one priority for the McGowan Labor government. It was a priority before the pandemic and it is, of course, now part of our economic recovery. Last week, the Premier and I announced a \$94 million suite of initiatives to boost manufacturing in WA. As part of our focus on local manufacturing, we are building our new railcars here in WA. As part of not only the manufacturing and assembly of the new C-series trains, we have also committed to a new diesel maintenance facility. This maintenance facility will basically create more training and opportunities for young Western Australians throughout WA.

We want to leverage the many private sector opportunities. As we know, the rail industry in WA is so significant in not only our commuter section, but also our mining and resources area. We want to bring to WA more of those maintenance jobs, more of those jobs being undertaken here in WA, the maintenance work and also the manufacturing work here in WA. So, of course, this is again another major focus, and, of course, as everyone knows, local manufacturing has been our priority.

I was surprised, as I sometimes am when I flick through my social media at night, to see the Leader of the Opposition's new focus on local jobs. The Leader of the Opposition is now focusing on local jobs. I was surprised by the new focus on local jobs, because I just compare and contrast the new focus with her commentary on some of the decisions that we made. I will go first to the Matagarup Bridge. Remember the Matagarup Bridge? We brought the fabrication work for that bridge back to WA. What did we hear from the opposition? Criticism and negativity. In fact, the opposition went walking on the bridge and criticised WA workers. The Leader of the Opposition basically said that Western Australians delivered a compromised piece of infrastructure.

When we announced the railcar manufacturing contract in Western Australia, what did the Leader of the Opposition say? She said that it was a failed manufacturing industry that was just a waste of Western Australians' money, and that we should not be reviving industries from a bygone era. Does the Leader of the Opposition still stand by those comments? The Leader of the Opposition is not going to stand by those comments because, as we have seen even as late as today, the Leader of the Opposition is all over the place on so many issues.

Today, we are demonstrating on local manufacturing. We saw her speaking on the borders for months saying, "Bring the borders down; bring the borders down"; now she says, "I never said that." Of course, even as late as today, the Leader of the Opposition stood up and said, "We support the legislation but we have to send it to a committee." The Leader of the Opposition either supports the legislation or she does not; she either supports Clive Palmer or she does not. We have seen from the Liberal Party WA a relationship with Clive Palmer, and we have seen a relationship trying to undermine Western Australia's economy and trying to undermine Western Australia's health.