

METRONET — RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSINGS

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

I wish to welcome the year 6 leadership team from Notre Dame Catholic Primary School in Belmont, along with their assistant principals Mrs Daniela Boyle and Brother Stephen—it is great to have you here today.

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's massive investment in improving congestion across Perth by removing dangerous level crossings and building new, job-creating road infrastructure. Can the minister update the house on the planning underway to fix those level crossings along the Armadale line that cause traffic delays for those in my community and right across the south-eastern suburbs?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Belmont for that question.

We have talked about the football this weekend. I say good luck to the South Fremantle football team—go the mighty Bulldogs!

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That is a view shared by a number of people in this house, including the members for Armadale, Fremantle and Wanneroo and, of course, the member for Bateman, who used to play with that team. Hopefully, South Fremantle can beat Subiaco this weekend.

The SPEAKER: We only talk about the main games in here!

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Why do you hate Western Australian football? That is all I can say, Mr Speaker!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I do not think that I will call you for that!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Go the mighty Bulldogs!

Mr P.A. Katsambanis: Why don't you call the minister?

The SPEAKER: I am frightened of her!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As members know, we are very keen to continue building Metronet. A key part of Metronet, of course, is the level crossing removal program. Over the past week, we have announced a shortlist for the contractors for the Denny Avenue project. Forward works have commenced. The member for Armadale and I went out there and saw some of the demolition of the homes, the geotechnical work and a number of the service relocations that are commencing. The Denny Avenue project is underway. We are doing further investigations of the Caledonian Avenue crossing, member for Maylands. Over the past week, we have gone out and got more work done, particularly for the Victoria Park and Cannington 6—that is what I call them. They are like a prison escapee group. The three level crossings in Victoria Park are at Mint Street, Oats Street and Welshpool Road. The level crossings through Cannington and Beckenham are at Wharf Street, Hamilton Street and William Street. It is a massive program. We believe that we can get a really good outcome through that area that will reduce congestion. It is very clear that the waits at those boom gates are increasing. With the Thornlie–Cockburn route coming through between Beckenham and the city, those waits were going to increase. Operationally, we needed to make sure that we could continue to improve the public transport system. This is also needed from a congestion point of view, as it will reduce or eliminate the waiting times at those boom gates. It is also needed from a housing development point of view. When we look at planning along that entire corridor, it is about increasing density, improving the liveability outcomes around those stations, and really revitalising those areas. This is a really exciting project. This project has yet to really get a lot of coverage, but I think it will transform that area and really change the entire operation of the network by improving amenity and liveability, reducing congestion and improving safety in that area.