

METRONET PROJECTS — JOBS

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

I refer to the work underway by the McGowan Labor government to support local jobs and drive more economic activity through the delivery of Metronet. Can the minister outline to the house how WA's success in responding to COVID-19 has allowed work to continue on the Forrestfield–Airport Link project, and can the minister update the house on how this and other major Metronet projects are continuing to support local jobs during WA's economic recovery?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for that question. Of course, today I was out at Airport Central station with the Premier, the member for Forrestfield and the member for Belmont. Work on the \$1.8 billion Forrestfield–Airport Link is very much steaming ahead, with almost four kilometres of track having been laid. The main atrium at Airport Central is taking shape. What is so pleasing about this is that when we go up to the workers and ask, "How are things going?", they say, "There's so much work on!" They thank the government for all the commitments it has made to provide record infrastructure, whether it is road, rail or cycling investment or port upgrades. The station itself is magnificent. I thank all the team who are out there building it. Of course, since tunnelling was completed in April, we have gone through to lay the track. As I said, four kilometres of track has been laid. There are 100 workers laying the track and 600 workers currently on that project. Work is well underway on that project and, of course, work is underway on so many projects around the state. Projects like the Byford rail extension are being brought forward to make sure we continue to deliver our commitments and we continue to deliver jobs. Of course, there are those on the other side who have never supported Metronet and in particular do not support projects like the Byford rail extension and the Morley–Ellenbrook extension. While we are talking about Darling Range, I was out in Darling Range over the past week picking the cherries in my mum's orchard when there was a phone call on one of the family's phones. It was interesting. It was a poll, members.

Point of Order

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Members, please! Yes.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I understand that there was a question asked of the minister in relation to transport projects. I do not believe any poll was mentioned. I am seeking a point of order as to the relevance of the minister's response to this question.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, excuse me! Have you made a decision? He was having a go. It is not a point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Just to confirm, the question asked about other Metronet projects, and that includes Byford. The Byford rail extension was mentioned in the poll. One of the polling questions, which was quite surprising, asked about the leaders of the parties. It was whether, generally speaking, the person being polled was satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of Liza Harvey as Western Australia's opposition leader. Then it kept going. Still thinking about the opposition leader, Liza Harvey, the question was whether —

Point of Order

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Mr Speaker, I appreciate your previous ruling, but given that the minister is continuing her contribution with an answer that does not seem relevant to the question asked of her, I ask you to draw the minister's attention to the relevancy of the question that was asked.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members to my right! No, but I am sure the minister will get back to the question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Sure. The next question asked whether someone else within the Liberal Party would do a better job as the WA opposition leader. The good thing about this is that it is such a leading question. The poll asked the person to press 1 for, yes, someone else will do a better job than Liza Harvey. If the person running the poll did not want the answer to be "yes", they would have probably put it as four or five in the list of answers, but it was "press 1"!

The SPEAKER: Minister, that is enough.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I do not know what is happening in Darling Range, but I note that the member for Darling Range said this morning that Ms Harvey has her support at the moment, but if the polling suggests that a change of leader would help the party, that is something they would need to discuss. Members, with friends like that, who needs enemies?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Perth, I call you to order for the first time. Members!