

METRONET — PROJECTS

**700. MR S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's record investment in job-creating and congestion-busting public transport infrastructure.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress and success of key Metronet projects, including the new Bayswater station and the airport line?
- (2) Can the minister advise how this government's record of delivery and priorities compares with the record of those opposite?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. Today marks the one-year anniversary of the new airport line commencing its official services. We have seen a massive take-up on the new airport line, which services not only the airports, but also the suburbs of High Wycombe and surrounds, giving people throughout the area new connections and new abilities to move across the suburbs into the city in an affordable way. We have seen again a great success in the new airport line.

On the weekend I was with the member for Maylands as we opened the two new platforms at Bayswater train station. The new platforms at Bayswater completely transform the Bayswater city centre and create new options for people to catch trains and public transport. Members may or may not recall that this picture is what the Bayswater train station looked like before we upgraded it. It was not the best place to catch the train. Now, just half of the new Bayswater train station looks like this. When we went out there on Sunday, we saw younger and older people—a cross-section of the community—enjoying the first services from that new train station. I talked to a number of local residents. I apologised for the disruption and they said, “It’s worth it. Look at the result!” Young people, such as 16-year-old Mark Steffens and his mates Tomas, Liam, Alby and Janos, caught the early train and were there for hours experiencing the new train station. There was a lot of excitement at the train station that morning. Of course, this is just part of our transformation of the public transport system. Again, it differentiates this government from the Liberal–National government when it comes to public transport infrastructure; whether it is the new Lakelands train station, the new train stations at High Wycombe, Redcliffe or at the airport, or, of course, the new Bayswater station, that is our investment compared with the previous government.

Members may want to know what was the previous government's plan for Bayswater station. It was this—the status quo. The previous government committed to an improved upgrade of the level crossing and the pedestrian crossing, and I think some toilets. That was its commitment to Bayswater. Our commitment was to a complete transformation. There are 10 new retail spaces, and we are working with local Bayswater businesses to entice them into that area. There is a new cycling path and new cycling infrastructure. There is new urban amenity. It is a complete transformation that not only has created jobs, but also will be the platform for further new developments in the city. Of course, it will be much easier for people to make their way around the suburbs with a brand new Bayswater train station.