

FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK — COMMENCEMENT

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in congestion-busting, job-creating infrastructure such as Metronet.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress of the Forrestfield–Airport Link and outline what it will mean for people living in Perth's eastern suburbs?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on other Metronet projects, including any attempts to undermine these transformational investments?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for that question.

- (1)–(2) Today, we were out there at the new airport station, and it looked absolutely spectacular. I think everyone who experiences that new train station will find that it is the best train station they have ever seen. It is incredible. I want to thank the workers who have delivered this new rail line. Today, we announced that on 9 October, the Forrestfield–Airport Link, the airport line, will be operating. There will be three new stations. High Wycombe train station will service not only those in the foothills, but also those people in the member for Kalamunda's area, and will be linked to the eastern suburbs and the eastern hills. The airport station is linked to the international airport and will also make sure that there is a seamless transition for those wanting to catch the train to the airport. The Redcliffe station is another magnificent station that will service the people of Redcliffe and Belmont and, again, will help people connect to the Qantas terminal. It is a significant project and there have been significant milestones. There have been many Metronet milestones recently, including an announcement on Sunday of the railcar manufacturing and, of course, today, the announcement of the completion of the rail line. We will now continue the driver testing. There will be a very significant community day on 9 October as the first rail line begins to operate.

We know the opposition does not like Metronet. Members of the Liberal Party and Nationals WA do not support Metronet. They do not support the workers out there who are delivering jobs across the state and across the suburbs. I always find it interesting to see what is happening on the other side. While we are busy delivering projects, what are our opposite numbers doing? I found something quite interesting in recent weeks when the opposition spokesperson for Metronet came out and did his audition for "The Clan". Do members remember that? I do not know who is worse—members of "The Clan" or those trying to audition to get into "The Clan". Hon Tjorn Sibma went out and said we should cancel all games like the Dreamtime game and the Anzac Day round.

Mr D.A. Templeman: He's very un-Australian.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: How un-Australian!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.S. LOVE: Point of order —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! Can I just remind you, Deputy Premier and others, that points of order are heard in silence.

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: Madam Speaker, I seek your direction as to whether or not this response is relevant to the question that has been asked.

The SPEAKER: I think it does fit within the question that the member for Forrestfield asked, but I remind the minister that there are some constraints. She has to answer the question as it was asked, but there was a fair bit of latitude in the question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We have been busy delivering projects like the Forrestfield–Airport Link and local rail manufacturing—projects that members on the other side have said are trying to revive industries from a bygone era, and that we should not be investing in railcar manufacturing. While we have been busy delivering these projects and creating new employment opportunities for Western Australians, my opposite number from the Liberal Party has been auditioning as a new member of "The Clan". For people who are meant to be respecting women in the workplace, I find it incredible that there are people who are putting in applications to enter "The Clan" by trying to

get rid of the Anzac Day and Dreamtime rounds. Again, we are very, very proud of what we are delivering. As I said, when people see these new stations and experience the train ride from the High Wycombe and airport stations directly into the city, they will experience a world-class train line. I again congratulate all those who are on the job delivering this project and working extremely hard to deliver this world-class infrastructure.