

JOBS — RAILCAR MANUFACTURING

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to creating new local jobs through its decision to bring railcar manufacturing back to WA.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the construction of the new railcar manufacturing facility at Bellevue?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this will not only support local workers, but also provide more opportunities for WA apprentices and trainees?

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Forrestfield for that question. Members, railcar manufacturing is back in WA. The Liberal Party said it could not be done.

Mr R.R. Whitby: They couldn't do it. They wanted to go to India.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We remember the previous member for Morley's expeditions to India!

This government is doing something that the opposition said could not be done—that is, bring back railcar manufacturing to WA. Today, I was out in Bellevue with the member for Midland and the Premier to turn the first sod, but the reality is that works are underway on the new facility. This large \$46 million facility measures 180 metres by 80 metres and it is now under construction. That will be the new home for railcar manufacturing in WA. A Western Australian company is building it. It will have the latest equipment to facilitate what will be a very modern facility for railcar manufacturing. As I said, it is a 180-metre-long building, with workshops, storage areas, overhead cranes and, as part of stage 2, a high-voltage testing unit as well. That is another part to this project. Of course, we will have more news to come about a diesel maintenance facility. It is all about making sure that we have railcar manufacturing, maintenance jobs and an impact on the supply chain throughout WA. We will see 246 C-series railcars and the new *Australind* railcars as well.

It just shows what we can do when we have good policies, we get elected and we implement our policies. My favourite quote from the opposition—one of many—is from the member for Nedlands, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I would also like to congratulate the new Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA. I hope he models himself on the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. I think he will! The member for Moore has already run out of the chamber. When he is under a bit of pressure, he runs out.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my right!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The chamber must note that the member for Moore and the member for North West Central —
Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, you have got your own minister on her feet and you are interjecting. Show a bit of class!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for North West Central and the member for Moore are outside doing paper scissors rock to see who is deputy!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: In relation to building railcars, the member for Nedlands was reported as saying —

“Obviously, we'd all love that but whether you can actually deliver that is doubtful.”

That is the former Minister for Transport's view on railcar manufacturing. Do the research, develop a policy, get in government and deliver it. That is how it is done.