

METRONET PROJECTS

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

Fortunately, my question is to the Minister for Transport, who is here!

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

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the delivery of Metronet and outline what it will mean for public transport users and the local community?
- (2) Can the minister advise whether there are any threats to the delivery of Metronet in the local jobs and local businesses that this investment is supporting?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield. Of course, the Forrestfield–Airport Link is currently in the testing phase. It is a very exciting project for the people in the member's community.

- (1)–(2) As part of the recent federal election, the federal Labor Party committed to the new High Wycombe community hub, which will be an exciting new community facility for everyone in the Forrestfield–High Wycombe areas. There are now more than 18 Metronet projects, members. We started with just under nine projects and now there are 18 because a lot of people —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Members should note that when we started question time 15 minutes ago, the opposition had six members and now it is down to three—no, it is back to four. Given that the opposition wants to make parliamentary attendance an issue, opposition members should stick to their seats during question time.

Ms S. Winton interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo, I do not need a further contribution from you. Minister, if I can ask you to return to the answer. Thank you.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The projects include the Forrestfield–Airport Link, the Thornlie–Cockburn Link, the Yanchep rail extension, the Morley–Ellenbrook line, the Byford rail extension, the Victoria Park–Canning level crossings and new projects, such as the one on Morrison Road. We have completed the Denny Avenue project and the Mandurah train station. Of course, we also have the Bellevue rail car manufacturing facility. The good thing is that it is all in the budget; all the information is in the budget. The latest shadow minister for Metronet—I think he is a member for North Metropolitan Region in the upper house—is out there claiming that he does not know where all the numbers are, that he does not know what the cost of Metronet is and that he does not know what the operating cost of Metronet is. I tell you what; it is called the state budget, members. When members open the budget papers, they can find the information. Again, now that we no longer have a federal Morrison government, the state opposition is ready to walk away from Metronet. That is what the state Liberal Party wants to do—it wants to walk away from Metronet, which is saying that people in the suburbs do not deserve world-class public transport.

We heard about the secret Liberal Party meeting at the WA Italian Club recently, did we not? As members know, I go to the Italian Club a bit. I was there recently, and I thought, “I’m going to try to find out where they held the secret Liberal Party meeting.” I went to the ballroom, which holds 500 people, but, no, there was no sign of them there. I went to the restaurant, which holds a couple of hundred people, to see whether that is where they had the Liberal Party meeting, but, no, it was a bit too big. I went down to the bar, which holds a couple of hundred people, to see whether that is where they held their Liberal Party meeting but, no, that was a bit too much. I found a little card room where my father used to play cards, which had a couple of tables and an espresso machine, and I realised that that is where they held the Liberal Party meeting. Fortunately, on the whiteboard that was still there, were the three key strategies of how to win the next election. The first was to not mention “The Clan”: “Whatever you do, don’t mention “The Clan”. The second strategy was “Keep committing to the Perth Freight Link. “Honk for Roe 8” days have to come back.” The third was, “Who’s got Justin Langer’s phone number?”

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!