

METRONET — MORLEY–ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

558. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's promise to the people of Ellenbrook to finally deliver a world-class railway line to the community.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house the next steps in delivering this project for the growing suburbs in the north-eastern corridor?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of anyone who is threatening this job-creating infrastructure project?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question.

- (1)–(2) What a day it was on Sunday, member for Swan Hills—a government delivering on its election commitments.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: I thought you were talking about the Dockers match!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That was Saturday, member for Midland, but that was also an extraordinary day. In fact, let us call it an extraordinary 24 hours.

I think it is important to go through the history of the Ellenbrook line a little more. Let us go to 2008, when the Liberal Party said that the Liberals would build a rail line to Ellenbrook. That was in 2008.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I do not think the Liberals did anything. Then they said that it would be a second-term commitment, and what did they do? Nothing. We now know why they did not do anything. We heard what the Leader of the Opposition said about some election commitments. In March this year, she said, "Sometimes you may say stupid things in an election year and you have to change your mind." They always thought that building an Ellenbrook rail line was a stupid idea, but we thought it was a great idea. When we won, I thought that, given that they had made two election commitments, some work would have been undertaken on it. We went through the high cupboards and the low cupboards looking for the planning on the Ellenbrook rail line, but no work whatsoever had been undertaken on the Ellenbrook rail line by those on the other side. So what did we have to do? We had to start from scratch—and start from scratch we did, members, on the planning and working with Infrastructure Australia. That is why we announced the route on the weekend—in record time. The Premier outlined the Bayswater station upgrade and the new Morley, Noranda, Malaga, Whiteman Park and Ellenbrook stations. We will continue to work with IA to deliver this very key commitment. I saw members of the opposition on Sunday night and I really wish they had stuck to my advice. They should have stayed in the cave that day. Their comments on the Ellenbrook rail line again do them no good, because everyone knows that they were misled and lied to by them time and again on this project. We are out there, delivering for the growing north-eastern suburbs and taking cars off roads to help the inner north east, members for Morley, Mount Lawley and Perth. It is about managing traffic, reducing congestion and making sure that people are connected across the community.