

ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE — BUSINESS CASE

18. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

My question is with reference to the Langouant commission of inquiry specifically to ensure greater rigour and transparency in decision-making and procurement processes.

- (1) Has the government developed a business case for the Ellenbrook rail line yet; and, if so, will the Premier table it?
- (2) If no to (1), will the business case include the required expansion of Bayswater train station, or is the government sneakily trying to hide those costs in the Forrestfield-Airport Link project?

I will just get the Premier's answer.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: My question continues —

- (3) Will the business case include the significant cost of signalling upgrades required for the Ellenbrook line to share use with the Midland and Forrestfield lines, or is the government also hiding these costs in the FAL project?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(3) I indicate to the house that I am very proud of the fact that the government is committed to building a rail line to Ellenbrook.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am aware of political parties that had promised to do it before and failed, and I am aware of political parties that promised to do it on two occasions and failed! I am very proud of the fact that the people of Ellenbrook, Ballajura, Brabham, Caversham and all those suburbs heading out into the north eastern corridor will get a railway under a Labor government!

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr M. McGOWAN: We will submit all the required information and documents—business cases and the like—to Infrastructure Australia. I inform the house that I think another group is interested in building a railway to Ellenbrook—that is, the federal government! It will join with us in ensuring that that project is built.

I am aware that some people said that the federal government would not support that project. I am aware that some people said that before the last state election, and they said it after the last state election, and they were wrong. They are the people opposite. The Leader of the Opposition said both before and after the last state election that the money would not come to Western Australia. I inform the house that we have secured \$2.3 billion in funding for road and rail projects around Western Australia. One of the projects that the commonwealth is most interested in is the Ellenbrook railway. I can tell the house that under Labor there will be a railway to Ellenbrook and that all the signalling issues and the like will be dealt with. I can also now, with some confidence, inform the people of Ellenbrook that the leopard opposite has not changed its spots; that is, the Liberal Party does not support the people of the north eastern corridor and Ellenbrook.