

ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to finally building the job-creating Morley–Ellenbrook rail line, which has long been opposed by the opposition.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the positive and constructive community consultation that has been undertaken on this much-needed project?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house if she is aware of any attempts to undermine this project or to create fear within my community?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for that question.

- (1)–(2) We saw the scaremongering today, did we not, members? We know the Liberal Party hates the Ellenbrook rail line, but I had assumed —

Ms J.J. Shaw interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Swan Hills, you have asked the question; listen to the answer.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I had assumed that the Liberal Party would be over it by now, but it is not. It is still trying to undermine the rail line, and that is what it did on the weekend; it opposed the Ellenbrook rail line. We will make sure that every person living in that corridor knows that the Liberal Party is against the Ellenbrook rail line and will tear up any projects for the Ellenbrook rail line.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Who said that?

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I want to hear this answer.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am glad the member turned up.

In relation to the Ellenbrook rail line, we are undertaking community consultation. There have been four drop-in sessions. Hundreds of people in Ellenbrook, Dayton, Bennett Springs, Brabham, Noranda and Morley are excited about the benefits of the railway line. The Metronet team has received over 700 survey responses. On this idea that somehow we are hiding this project, we are not hiding the Ellenbrook rail line; we are very proud of it.

What do we see about the Liberal Party? One of the most interesting things that the Liberal Party is trying to do is spread lies throughout the corridor. The opposition transport spokesperson said in a tweet that it is the Liberals WA that has provided the only support to the Ellenbrook rail line. The term that comes to mind is “more front than Myer”. On the weekend, led by some strategic thinkers in that northern corridor, Liberal members went to a children's playground and said that we were building a rail line through it. They did not tell the truth. Let us go through all the Liberal Party's claims. It has said that we never took this route to the election. That is false; we did. It has said that we are excising 300 hectares. That is false; we are not. It has said that the rail line will cut off public access to Whiteman Park. No, it will not. Let us go through it. The Liberal Party claims that this is essential parkland used by the community. Its own plan was to turn it into a cemetery. Its own plan was that Marshall Road land was to be used for other purposes. There has been mistruth after mistruth and lie after lie. The Liberal Party has lied about that corridor. We know that it hates the Ellenbrook rail line and it will do everything to stop it. The Premier has asked whether the member will support the legislation.

The SPEAKER: No.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Members, we are hearing today that the Liberal Party will not support the Ellenbrook rail line legislation! It is outrageous. Liberal members take the media to somewhere we are not building the rail line and say that we are building the rail line there. Does the member know where NorthLink was planned to go through?

The SPEAKER: No, through the Chair, minister.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Does the member know? I will give the member a hint. The NorthLink project, which was planned under the previous government and which we are delivering, excised 180 hectares from Whiteman Park and cut Whiteman Park in half. That is what the previous government did. It is okay to build roads through areas but not a rail line! The Liberals went out too early. They have completely lost the plot on this project. We are going to build this rail line. We know that the Liberal Party will do everything to stop this project.