

FORRESTFIELD–ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

688. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Minister for Transport's claim that a railway line from Forrestfield to Ellenbrook would cost \$2.5 billion.

- (1) On what basis did the minister make this claim?
- (2) Will the minister table all reports or briefing notes on which this claim is based; and, if no, why not?
- (3) How much of the \$2.5 billion is for the section of the railway from the Midland line to Forrestfield and how much of this is for tunnels?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Transport advises —

- (1)–(3) On the basis of the member's commitment on radio, on behalf of the WA Labor Party, the Minister for Transport made a conservative calculation. This calculation is based on the estimated cost of well over \$1 billion to connect heavy rail to Ellenbrook, planning the former Labor government failed to undertake before making a politically motivated election commitment.

Whilst the government will not match Labor's commitment to waste approximately \$2.5 billion of taxpayers' money, the government is working to produce efficient and affordable transport solutions, such as a bus rapid transit system to service the Ellenbrook region and a rail link to the Perth airport that will service the Forrestfield and hills area. These projects will provide commuters with the best public transport service at an affordable cost. The commitment by the opposition spokesperson for transport is further evidence of WA Labor's economic vandalism.