

ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

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

I refer to federal Labor's \$700 million commitment to the job-creating Morley–Ellenbrook line.

- (1) What role can the federal government play in delivering first-class public transport to the north-eastern suburbs?
- (2) Can the minister outline the reasons the federal Liberals should resist calls to oppose this project by their state-level colleagues, who continue to treat the people of Ellenbrook with disdain?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question.

- (1)–(2) Last week was another big week for this government. On Wednesday, I was out there with my good friend the federal Minister for Transport, Darren Chester, announcing \$55 million for regional roads in WA. He is a good federal minister, whom I enjoy working with. On Friday, another good friend of mine, Anthony Albanese, came over to WA with the federal Labor leader, Bill Shorten, to announce \$700 million to the Morley–Ellenbrook rail line. That is right; it was \$700 million. We are working hard, I have said on numerous occasions, with both the federal government and the federal opposition to secure funds for WA. That is what we are meant to be doing. We are batting for WA. We are supporting WA. What is the opposition doing? It is trying to get the federal government to rip money out of WA. That is what the state opposition is trying to do—rip money out of WA! It did not support the Perth Freight Link redirection and it does not support more funds for Metronet. When I woke up this morning, I heard another bizarre comment from the Leader of the Opposition. He said, “I have said, ‘Ellenbrook—do not commit funding to Ellenbrook.’” That is what he said to the federal Liberal Party.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I am in charge here. Everyone, be quiet please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I heard the member for Scarborough just interject, saying —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Is this going to be like Kevin Rudd's infrastructure fund?

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I thank the member for Scarborough for the interjection. I think that she needs to be reminded of some history. Members might recall what the now opposition committed to in 2013—\$4.8 billion of infrastructure in WA, including MAX light rail. Do members remember how it said it was going to fund it? It said it would get 50 per cent federal funding at the time of the state election. When Tony Abbott won, it lost it all. The Liberal Party did not secure a cent and it did not fight for it. Now the member for Scarborough is saying, “You got \$700 million. That's enough.” That is what she is saying. She said it on Friday in a press conference. I heard the press conference—what a press conference that was! “\$700 million—you've got enough! You don't need any more money.” That is the type of approach the member for Scarborough is showing. Do members on this side believe that \$700 million from the federal government is enough?

Government members: No!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Of course we do not! We will be fighting for more funding for WA because we are proud Western Australians and we deserve a fair share. We will be working with the federal government and the federal opposition. The member for Scarborough has not said much over the past seven months on public transport or transport. She said something on Friday that I believe we all agree with. She said, “It is irrelevant as to whether I support the Ellenbrook rail line.” She is absolutely correct. It is absolutely irrelevant what she thinks of public transport.