

NORTHERN SUBURBS RAIL EXTENSION

**890. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Finance:**

My question is to the Minister for Finance, of which some notice was given. I refer to the minister's answer to question on notice 532 in which he advised the house that the estimated population of the catchment area for the extension of the northern suburbs rail line from Butler to Yanchep in 2031 was 110 000. I also refer to the minister's answer to question on notice 581 in which he advised the house that this estimation was based on a draft of "Directions 2031" and the forecast population is for all areas north of Butler, in the City of Wanneroo, to the west of Wanneroo Road.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the estimate of population growth of 110 000 included in the draft of "Directions 2031" refers to the whole of the north west subregion?
- (2) Is the minister aware that the north west subregion is far larger than the area north of Butler and west of Wanneroo Road, and includes many suburbs that are nowhere near the catchment area for the Butler–Yanchep rail line?
- (3) Does the minister stand by his answers to questions on notice 532 and 581; and, if so, why?
- (4) If no to (3), what action does the minister intend to take?

**The PRESIDENT:** Was that a question without notice or with some notice given?

**Hon KEN TRAVERS:** It was a question without notice of which some notice was given. I have a note here that it is redirected to the minister in his capacity representing the Minister for Transport, but my question is to him as the Minister for Finance because he is obviously accountable for his own answers to this place.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

Mr President, the question that you raised and the question raised by the member is an interesting one because it was not clear. The question of which some notice has been given—I have it here—is addressed to the minister representing the Minister for Transport.

**Hon Ken Travers:** The one I submitted, and someone has handwritten onto it, is representing the Minister for Transport. I didn't do that; the question I wrote was to the Minister for Finance.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** So the member is addressing a question to me.

**Hon Ken Travers:** Yes. I mean, you can talk to whomever you like to inform yourself, but my question is to you.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** As Minister for Finance?

**Hon Ken Travers:** In terms of the answers that you have given to this house.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** I see; I think I know what is going on here. Hon Ken Travers is hugging himself with anticipation because he thinks he has a contradictory answer. Let us have a look. This is interesting. I have an answer here. Clearly, the matters that are being discussed fall within the transport portfolio, but I am being asked in a representative capacity. That is fine if that is the way the member wants to go. To avoid any confusion, I will give an answer in that representative capacity and I will also give the member the answer that has been provided by the Minister for Transport.

The member asked about answers to questions on notice 532 and so on. Before the member wants to be a bit clever and thinks he has tripped someone up on a technicality, he did not ask me any question on notice 532. We went looking for questions on notice 532 and 581. They do not exist in that they are certainly not the ones that the member referred to. The member will need to perhaps correct that before he wants to start trying to pick others up on technicalities. When we eventually tracked down the questions without notice with that number, they were addressed to me in my capacity representing the Minister for Transport, and I provided the answers in good faith.

But I now provide the member with the further answer. I am happy with it; I stand by this answer—all right? Even though it has come from the Minister for Transport, I will take ownership and responsibility, and I hope that the member gets the number right if he ever wants to bring it back to service again.

- (1)–(4) I would like to point out that the question the member has referred to was in fact a question without notice and not a question on notice as the member has stated. The Minister for Transport can confirm that the catchment area covers the Cities of Wanneroo and Joondalup. The estimated patronage figures previously supplied are correct.

So there we go! Gee whiz! You were a big success with that one, Ken!

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**Hon Ken Travers:** You might need to recheck your answer, because you are misleading the house.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I think that question and answer is over. We will now move to the next one.