

TRANSPORT SYSTEM — CONGESTION

**138. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the survey released today by the Australian Automobile Association that shows that my constituents in Aveley spend 75 minutes a day stuck in traffic and those in Ellenbrook almost an hour. What is this government doing to address the Liberal government's neglect of our transport system and to improve congestion?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Swan Hills. Is it not a refreshing change to have a member for Swan Hills who is pro infrastructure in this state? I think the member for Swan Hills might be pro the Ellenbrook rail line. Is it not a refreshing change for this house to have a member for Swan Hills who is pro public transport and pro an Ellenbrook rail line?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Face the Chair, minister.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Member for Swan Hills, of course, we are starting our planning for the Ellenbrook rail line. We have good commitments and are delivering key changes in the area. The duplication of Lord Street will help serve the residents of Ellenbrook and Aveley. We have the full duplication of Reid Highway, which will basically break the bottleneck that is there and has been created over years.

**Mr D.C. Nalder:** NorthLink.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I am about get to it. It was with great pleasure that I was out there last week to turn the sod for the NorthLink project. The federal member for Pearce was at that press conference. It is funny that the opposition is claiming that it is its project, yet the federal member for Pearce seemed to claim credit for everything. This is how he claims the NorthLink project began.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Who was it first funded by? Can anyone guess? That is right; federal Labor first funded that project. I acknowledged in that press conference that the contract was signed under the previous Liberal government, but the federal member for Pearce claimed entire credit for the project. I will go through what he said. How did the project come about, according to the federal member for Pearce? He claimed that he recalled five years ago going for an early morning run with the then opposition leader, Tony Abbott. His run with Tony Abbott created that project! It is quite funny that a federal government that is so committed to business cases claims that a run with Tony Abbott caused a \$1 billion project to be funded. We went through it. He is now a convert to the Yanchep rail line. In early March, he said that there was no business case for the Yanchep rail line and that it was not a priority, but now it was his idea. What did he say about the \$2.3 billion package—the one that the current opposition said could not be delivered? The federal member for Pearce played the key part in securing the \$2.3 billion deal. He is a genius! I always thought that he was the key source for the Leader of the Opposition. Do members remember what he said? He said that a key Liberal Party source told him that the deal would not be done to secure the PFL funding.

There is one project that I hope the federal member for Pearce changes his mind on, given his electorate includes the suburbs of Dayton, Brabham and Ellenbrook. What project do I hope the federal member for Pearce changes his mind on? It is the Ellenbrook rail line. I know the current opposition cannot bring itself to commit to that project.

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Manager of opposition business, please!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It cannot commit itself to support that project. We see the member for Scarborough not supporting the Ellenbrook rail line. The Leader of the Opposition hates Ellenbrook and hates the concept of the Ellenbrook rail line. I hope the federal member for Pearce, who now has created the idea that he accepts total responsibility for the \$2.3 billion deal for the Yanchep rail line and NorthLink, is now a convert and supports the Ellenbrook rail line.