

METRONET PROJECTS — 2017–18 STATE BUDGET

**431. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Transport:**

My question is to the Minister for Transport.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Check the questions on notice; there are plenty on notice.

I refer to the comments of the Treasurer and the minister in the house yesterday that the commonwealth government will fund 80 per cent of the Ellenbrook rail line. Will the minister immediately table advice of that commitment, or is it true that there is no such advice because that commitment does not exist?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Scarborough for that question. I have been waiting for it. It is good that the campaigning rock star from the election can stand and ask a question. In relation to the budget, governments go through a process, and in that process we are going from scratch on the Ellenbrook rail line because the Liberal Party did nothing for eight and a half years. It committed to it in 2008. It committed to it again in —

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

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, please. You have asked a question; let us get the answer.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The opposition did nothing for eight and a half years. Half of the members opposite want it built and half of them do not want it built. Hon Christian Porter now likes it. They are all over the place. We are going through the business case, developing the plan and getting the funding and revenue measures to do that. That is what we said at the election. That is what we are doing. Of course, the federal government has a responsibility to help fund that rail line, because it has spent billions of dollars in the other states. I think it spent \$8 billion on one rail line alone. Of course we want it to fund our project. What we need is the state Liberal Party to promote WA and rail in this state. Members will remember that we tried to get the \$1.8 billion redirected and we were successful in doing so. Members opposite argued against it and I am sure they will argue against federal funding for the Ellenbrook rail, because they are spoilers and they do not want to see that project built.