

METRONET — FEDERAL–STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

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

I refer to the joint job-creating and economy-boosting infrastructure package that the McGowan Labor government was able to secure from the federal government, including a commitment to creating hundreds of jobs in Metronet.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the McGowan Labor government was able to secure this infrastructure package?
- (2) Is the minister aware of anyone who does not support this commitment to Metronet?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question.

- (1)–(2) As members know, a couple of weeks ago we stood there as the federal government announced a major boost to the Metronet package in this state.

Mr D.C. Nalder: It's still a slogan.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am glad the member for Bateman said that it is still a slogan. I will get to him in a moment.

We stood there as the federal government committed to the Byford rail extension, a project that Labor is committed to; the Ellenbrook rail line; and, of course, the Midland station redevelopment. We have seen the federal government embrace Metronet. It loves Metronet. Now it is trying to own Metronet, but that is fine. We know it is a policy for the future and the suburbs of WA. When describing Metronet, the Prime Minister said of the rail line to Ellenbrook and the extension to Byford —

This is all about ensuring that people in Perth, and indeed outside of Perth, can get home sooner and safer. This is congestion-busting billions of dollars ...

All told, about \$2.4 billion is going to Metronet alone. Then the people behind the Liberals WA Twitter account got a bit excited. Liberals WA tried to embrace Metronet as —

... an historic, major infrastructure investment in WA that will create thousands of jobs, stimulate economic growth and bust congestion, allowing commuters to get home more quickly and safely.

We compare and contrast some of that positive energy about Metronet from the federal government with the opposition today. The member for Scarborough said that presently the numbers for Ellenbrook railway “don't stack up” and that “it's marginal seat politics”. The Prime Minister was there, but she is claiming that it is marginal seat politics. The member for Bateman said Metronet is just a slogan. The federal government seems to like this slogan and the project and it is embracing and loving Metronet. The member for Bateman said, “There's nothing substantial here.” No, it is just five railway lines and unprecedented investment in our suburbs!

Mr D.C. Nalder: What's the impact on operating costs? It's a simple question.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Bateman does not support it.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: If the Leader of the Opposition wants to ask that question, ask that question. The Leader of the Opposition said that the government is —

... out there prioritising a railway line to Ellenbrook ...

He told the federal government not to commit funding to Ellenbrook. The Leader of the Opposition said —

“It pays off the many moneyed interests and property developers who have land in that area,” ...

The Liberal opposition does not know what to do about Metronet now, but the member for Bateman alluded to it. The Liberal Party was there, bagging Metronet, saying that it is a slogan and has no substance and that the projects are not worthy. Then the member for Bateman could not control himself around the time when he said to name one Metronet project that was not in the previous government's Perth and Peel@3.5million transport plan. Members either support or do not support Metronet. We know that the Leader of the Opposition does not support the railway extensions to Byford or Ellenbrook. The shadow Minister for Transport does not either. The opposition does not support the Midland train station redevelopment. WA Labor is proud of Metronet and we are proud to have federal government investment in such a big project for WA.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Sport and Recreation, I am sorry we woke you up. I have to call you to order for the first time.