

JOONDALUP RAIL LINE — YANCHEP EXTENSION

635. Mr T.J. HEALY to the Minister for Transport:

My question is to the incredible Minister for Transport. I refer to the minister's media release on 21 August, which states, and I quote —

Business cases for two key METRONET projects—the Joondalup line extension to Yanchep and the Thornlie Line Extension—have now been submitted to Infrastructure Australia.

I ask on behalf of the member for Scarborough, is that correct?

Point of Order

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I do not believe that a member can ask a question on behalf of another member.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Wait, wait, wait! The point of order will be heard in silence.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am not sure that a member can ask a question on behalf of another member who is present in this place.

The SPEAKER: What standing order is it under?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am seeking your advice, Mr Speaker. You are the expert on the standing orders.

The SPEAKER: My advice is: it is not a point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Southern River for the question. I understand this issue was raised last Thursday and, as members will be aware, I was not in the chamber for a number of reasons. I thank members on my side who offered me their support through those days.

This is a serious issue, but I was surprised it was raised on Thursday, one of the only questions times I have never been here. I was here on the Tuesday and I was here on the Wednesday and the question was not asked; but it was asked on the Thursday. Although this issue was raised a number of weeks previously, the opposition chose the only question time I was not here.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: They chose to ask the question on the only day I was not here. The member for Scarborough says that is when they got the information. The member for Scarborough put out her media release on 24 October. That is when she put out the media release on this issue! The whole issue was in relation to the business case. The opposition has a new-found interest in business cases. Of course, in government, it did not like business cases; it actually was proud of the fact that it never developed business cases. Remember when we asked about the stadium? Remember when we asked, "Where's the business case for the stadium?" "We don't need a business case," the former Premier said, "that's where I want to build the stadium and we're building the stadium." That was their attitude to business cases.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Mines and Petroleum!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am surprised that the question was asked. I thought I would take this opportunity to clarify. The member for Scarborough went out and said on 24 October that no business case has been received for Metronet projects. I saw the media release at the time and I thought: hang on; that does not correspond with my version or my idea of what had happened. As I recall, we sent some business cases to Infrastructure Australia. I know that because I actually met and briefed Infrastructure Australia on the business cases.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough!

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 7 November 2017]

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Mr Terry Healy; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Rita Saffioti

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I rang Infrastructure Australia after the member for Scarborough's media statement, to clarify. Infrastructure Australia's response to the media was that Infrastructure Australia had received preliminary business cases for parts of the Metronet project and that they included strategic analysis, options assessment, deliverability assessment and economic analysis. They were the business cases for the Thornlie and Yanchep extensions.

I know the opposition does not support Metronet. I know that. The member for Scarborough would fill up the tunnel between Forrestfield and Bayswater if she had her chance.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The National Party rips up rail lines, just as it did with the tier 3 rail lines when it was in government. Do members remember that? Let me make it very clear: Infrastructure Australia is working with the Western Australian government to deliver projects in WA. We are in constant contact with the federal government and in constant contact with Infrastructure Australia. Member for Scarborough, the business cases are being assessed. We are doing further work on land-use development, because again that is what we have brought to the table—significant land use—and we are on track to deliver our election commitments. Just because the opposition hates Metronet, it should not be so negative and talk it down at every situation.