

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY STATIONS — CAR PARKING

205. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Minister for Transport:

During the election campaign, Liberal candidates in electorates along the northern and southern railway lines campaigned heavily on the issue of car parking at train stations. While I was fighting for more car parking at stations such as Cockburn, Labor campaigners wanted less, claiming that people would be better off riding pushbikes and should not drive to the stations. After the dismal failure of Labor to provide enough parking at train stations, can the minister please update the house on the progress of providing the extra 3 000 bays that the government committed to along the northern and southern railway lines?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:

I thank the member for the question. Before I answer it, Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the presence in your gallery of some visitors from the Georgiana Molloy Anglican School in my electorate, including the principal, Mr Ted Kosicki, a long-suffering St Kilda supporter and apparent friend of Hon Ljiljana Ravlich. Mr Kosicki presented me with two bottles of wine at lunchtime for reasons that he would not explain to me.

I will deal with the question. I saw a disturbing bit of information in the newspaper this morning. There were some quotes from the member for Maylands. Unfortunately, she is not in the chamber, but I thought I should share her comments with the house. She said that commuters in her electorate were still waiting for the Barnett government to honour its election promise for more parking at Bayswater, Meltham and Maylands train stations. This reminded me of her comments about the animal welfare unit and the 175 000 dead sheep that never existed. It is a completely fanciful assertion. There was never an election promise by the Liberal Party for extra car parking bays on that line.

Several members interjected.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I looked at what might have been said during the election campaign. The Liberal candidate at the time said, “I think we might need an extra 30 bays.” In the same article, the member who criticised us for not building car parking bays —

Mr M. McGowan: So you’re attacking her while she’s not here. What hypocrisy!

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I am just correcting the record. Listen to what she said, member for Rockingham.

In relation to car parking bays, she said that we had better wait till we get the study done, and that bulldozing land and pouring concrete everywhere does not necessarily bring benefits to locals. We do not agree with that. We want to build car parking bays, and we are doing that on the northern and southern lines. I also read in the local newspaper today, member for Jandakot, that a Labor Party operative—a former employee at the member for Cockburn’s office—was complaining about the lack of car parking bays at Cockburn station. What this Labor Party operative forgot to mention was that, during the election campaign, the Labor Party candidates opposed additional car parking at train stations such as Cockburn.

Mr F.M. Logan: She was going on about lighting in the car park and young women going to those car parks at night.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: She was going on about the quality of the car parks, including the number of bays. Is the member for Cockburn a bit sensitive? What did he do about extra car parking bays in Cockburn? He did nothing. The best thing he did was to move his office there because no-one would stay there.

Several members interjected.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Sure they did.

Let us look at what we promised during the election campaign compared with what the Labor Party promised. We promised \$50 million to build 3 000 extra car parking bays on the Joondalup and Mandurah railway lines. The Labor Party promised to build 1 000 extra bays. Then I discovered that those 1 000 bays were already funded in the Public Transport Authority’s forward estimates. It was just tizzying up and window-dressing something that was going to happen anyway. I thought I would give the house a quick update of what has happened so far with those extra bays, because I know there is a lot of interest, particularly in the member for Jandakot’s electorate.

Mr E.S. Ripper: We built 4 000 bays.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: The Labor Party built a train line with nowhere for people to park. We are trying to fix the problem—and members opposite are still grizzling about it!

Mr A.J. Waddell interjected.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I will not get the member for Forrestfield to count them—not after the job he did as the numbers man for the member for Victoria Park! Can he hold up his fingers? How many has he got—four and a half on each hand because he only got to nine? He was supposed to get to 19. He should get his shoes off next time! Maybe he is a bit light on in the toe department—who knows?

About 1 950 car parking bays have been built so far. For the benefit of members on this side of the house, so far we have built 210 bays at Cockburn station, plus the 144 temporary bays; 150 at Murdoch; 210 at Whitfords; 266 at Clarkson; and 296 at Greenwood. But it does not stop there! During the first part of this year, hopefully there will be another 484 bays at Stirling and 171 at Warwick. But there is more! In 2012 we will build a whole pile more. I will not tell members how many yet, because when we finally get to that number, it will be a very exciting announcement. That will include another 400 at Cockburn for the member for Jandakot and his constituents. But there is more! On top of that fantastic commitment, another 700 extra bays will be built along the Armadale, Fremantle and/or Midland lines. It is literally raining car bays on those train lines. For the member for Maylands, we never made a promise. When someone says that they think we could do with 30 bays, that is not an election commitment. For the ALP operative in the southern suburbs, the member for Cockburn's friend, the news is bad, because we are building the bays that people voted the member for Jandakot in to deliver.