

PERTH MAJOR SPORTS STADIUM — PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**468. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Minister for Transport:**

I note this government's commitment to the new Burswood stadium and the recent announcement on the stadium master plan that has recently been released. Could the minister please provide the house with an update on the strategy to maximise public transport to and from the new stadium at the Burswood site and inform the house of the opposition's views, if any, on these plans?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:**

I can certainly inform the member for Jandakot of the government's position, and I thank him for the opportunity to do so. In relation to the opposition's position, I would not have a clue, but I will give my best efforts to try to ascertain what exactly that is.

The facts of the matter are that the new stadium will seat 60 000 people. Accommodating 60 000 people at one venue is a challenge, irrespective of where it goes. It is a challenge at Burswood. It would have been a challenge if it had been built at Subiaco. We have come up with what I think is a very, very innovative plan to deliver a largely public transport-based outcome. I will just quickly work through the numbers around that. In effect, 35 000 people will be moved to and from the stadium by rail. We reckon that around 3 000 of those will come out of the stadium and go up and down the Armadale line. About 25 000 people will leave the station and travel through the city, either up to Joondalup, down to Mandurah or perhaps out to Fremantle. I suppose Dockers supporters and Eagles supporters will go on the Fremantle line.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Eagles supporters have preference.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** We estimate about 7 000 people will cross Windan Bridge and will catch a train at East Perth station. For the house's information, when people go to a game at Subiaco Oval, a lot of people when they leave walk to West Leederville station. The distance to West Leederville station is about the same as the distance from the proposed stadium at Burswood across Windan Bridge to East Perth station. That is the 35 000.

Buses will depart from the stadium bus station. Around 8 000 people will leave by bus from there. We estimate that about 6 000 people will cross the footbridge into East Perth and will catch buses in Nile Street. Those buses will distribute those people.

**Mr J.N. Hyde:** It is coming out at Nile Street?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Approximately near Nile Street. Those buses will distribute people around the CBD.

Another 9 000 pedestrians will cross at Nile Street and will enjoy parking or access to parked cars in and around that East Perth precinct. As I said, if we took Subiaco Oval and added another 20 000 people, we would have all sorts of problems trying to accommodate them, especially on the rail, given the constraints that sit around the rail reserve in that particular area. It is an innovative plan. We think it is a good plan.

I am interested today in the opposition leader's position about public transport at stadiums. In fact, I am interested in the opposition leader's position in relation to where the stadium should go. Where do you think it should go, Leader of the Opposition? He has nothing to say!

**Mr M. McGowan:** Let's have a debate about it. Do you want me to stand up?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** No, no; the Leader of the Opposition does not have to stand. I will give the Leader of the Opposition an example of how he stands up. Yesterday I quoted some comments from the Leader of the Opposition from Mr McGlue's morning show. I am going to read them into *Hansard*. This is what we call a masterclass in fence-sitting. I just want members to listen to what happened. The Leader of the Opposition is asked about his position on the stadium location. This is what he says —

Absolutely, thank you ... What I said was... that we support... well what I ... I'll restate our position.  
We support a stadium ...

We all know that, but where? The question was where.

A member interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Where were you last week? I heard you were a bit upset.

Let us go on. A listener, Brian, rings in. Brian says, "All we want is a yes or no answer." Here is the yes or no answer —

Thank you for your question, Brian. Obviously my preference is for the stadium to be at Subiaco simply because you can get a world-class stadium and save the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars ...

That is on one side of the fence. The Leader of the Opposition then sticks his other leg on the other side of the fence. He says, however, that if the contract has been signed, he will probably keep it at Burswood. Here is the position: the contracts will not be signed.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** One, two, three—I formally call you to order three times today. I reflected in this place the other day, member for Victoria Park, that people who continually yelled across the chamber and continually interjected would be formally called to order. That is why I am calling you to order three times at this very moment.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** All volume, no content.

Mr McGlue then goes on to say this —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! If the Treasurer is going to continue in this fashion, I will sit him down. I hope you understand me. If I need to stand again, Treasurer, I will be sitting you down. That is what I will be doing.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Let me finish by reading from the rest of this very interesting dialogue between Mr McGlue and the Leader of the Opposition. Mr McGlue goes on to say —

... but if the contracts aren't locked in, does that mean that you would can the stadium ...

“Our preference,” he said —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Without standing, I formally call to order the member for Warnbro and the member for Pilbara.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I move to the nub of the point. The nub of the point is this, Leader of the Opposition: at some stage the Leader of the Opposition has to get off the fence and declare his hand. At some stage he has to make a choice. There are two choices: you build it at Burswood or you build it at Subiaco. Get off the fence and declare your hand.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I formally call you to order for the third time. Member for West Swan, did you hear what I said to the member for Victoria Park? Yes. I formally call you to order for the first, second and third time today. It is unbecoming behaviour.