

METRONET — MORLEY–ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE — PRE-ELECTION ANALYSIS

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

I refer to the job-creating Morley–Ellenbrook rail line that only a McGowan Labor government is committed to.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how communities across my electorate have been able to have input into this vital Metronet project?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether, upon coming to government, she has become aware of the analysis of Metronet that was referred to yesterday in this house by the opposition?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I have my scissors with me just in case! I thank the member for Swan Hills.

(1)–(2) As the member knows, we made a significant commitment to build the Ellenbrook rail line.

Mr P.A. Katsambanis: Give us an opening date.

The SPEAKER: I will give you a closing date. I call you to order for the first time, member for Hillarys.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As part of that process, we have gone out for community consultation and undertaken a significant survey across all the areas that will be serviced by the Ellenbrook rail line. There were more than 1 900 respondents and their message is clear: the people of the north-east corridor want the Ellenbrook rail line.

Mr P.A. Katsambanis interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member, please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Tonight, we will be holding the first Facebook Live. All members opposite can watch. They can watch a government that consults with the community and delivers its election commitments.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you to order for the second time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Hillarys said that we have talked about it for six years. As I recall, the Liberal Party made a commitment to it in 2008 and did nothing in eight and half years.

Mr P.A. Katsambanis interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Hillarys!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We will be undertaking one of our community feedback sessions tonight.

Yesterday, we saw some extraordinary events in this place. I refer to not only the performance of Edward Scissorhands on the other side, but also the extraordinary performance in relation to a claim. The member for Bateman referred to—I wrote down the claim—an analysis of Metronet conducted by Under Treasurer Michael Barnes. Members will remember that yesterday we were all a bit confused. How did the then government commission Treasury to undertake an analysis of the opposition’s Metronet costings? A few days before the election campaign, the now Leader of the Opposition asked Treasury to undertake an analysis not of Metronet but of a range of rail projects.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are on three.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That advice was in documents prepared for the executive government. Members opposite used that advice in an election campaign. They used advice prepared for the executive government. They stole it from the ministerial office and used it during the election campaign. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition set up the member for Bateman. He gave the member for Bateman a document that the member for Bateman did not know had been walked out of a ministerial office and came to this place —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms L. Mettam: That’s not the issue.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is the issue. The question was about the analysis that was referred to yesterday. Member for Swan Hills, was that the question?

Ms J.J. Shaw: Yes.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Thank you!

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman, if you want to interject, you ask whether the minister will take an interjection and then there will not be an issue. But if you keep interjecting like that, I will have to call you to order.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Leader of the Opposition's office gave it to the member for Bateman, who did not know that that document had been walked out of the Treasurer's office with the Treasurer. The Leader of the Opposition set up the member for Bateman. We are seeking further advice on that because, as the member for Cockburn asked, "Is that legal?" I do not think it is. The Leader of the Opposition took documents prepared for the executive and used them politically during a campaign and then came into this chamber and referred to it in question time. Members should consider how surreal that was. The opposition referred to a document that it should not have had in a question and then tried to cover it up. Member for Bateman, you were set up. I feel sorry for you. It is not the first time the Liberal leader's office has set up the member for Bateman and I am sure it will not be the last. I feel sorry for the member for Bateman because I know that he did not know that the document was taken from a ministerial office. I know that he did not know that given the way he performed yesterday. They set you up with a document that should not have been in here.