

**METROPOLITAN RAILWAY STATIONS — CAR PARKING BAYS**

*Grievance*

**MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot)** [9.26 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Transport. One of the more pressing issues in my electorate at the last state election was the lack of planning and foresight by the previous government in providing parking bays at Cockburn train station and other train stations along the northern and southern rail lines. Everywhere I went, people said that the train was great but it was a pity that they could not drive to the station and park there. I spent many early mornings at Cockburn station handing out flyers and listening to people's frustration at not being able to get a car park. Back then, the facilities were pretty much a disgrace, and I made a commitment to the people of Jandakot that, in government, the Liberal Party would fix the debacle. It is worth briefly noting the rank hypocrisy from the Labor Party on this issue: in government it claimed that there was no need for more parking, yet in opposition it launched a self-righteous campaign of media stunts and petitions saying that the Liberal government was not building them fast enough.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, members!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Before the construction of further bays, the City of Cockburn went on a parking fine rampage, with its rangers often handing out infringements for trivial incidents such as cars that were parked safely on the verge when it was obvious that there was no other option for drivers if they wanted to get to work. I received many letters from upset and frustrated constituents at being dealt with unsympathetically by the City of Cockburn.

I understand that there are different stages of construction of the car parking bays at Cockburn train station. In fact, construction of the first stage began in 2009. Stage 1 was opened in June 2010, with 210 new permanent bays and 144 temporary bays, bringing the total number of bays at Cockburn station to 950. I wrote to all the constituents in Atwell and Aubin Grove to update them on the delivery of the new bays and received an overwhelmingly positive response. But on a regular basis when I drive past Knock Place in Atwell, the area of temporary car parking at the train station is pretty much full or close to it. The people of Atwell and Aubin Grove are very appreciative that this government is delivering to date on its 2008 election commitment to construct new bays. However, in line with overall population growth in Perth, the suburbs of Atwell and Aubin Grove—and even Success and Hammond Park in the member for Cockburn's electorate—continue to sprawl and the population continues to grow rapidly. We are in desperate need of more parking. Stage 2 is obviously the next step in that solution. I understand that an additional 400 bays will be constructed sometime this year, I think at lot 601 Knock Place, and possibly at a later date, there may be a third stage depending on feasibility studies and planning approval. It is, therefore, a big issue.

It is pretty hard to encourage people to catch a train if they cannot get to the station. I remember one Labor Party operative during the campaign saying that people need less parking, not more, because they want to encourage people to ride a pushbike to the station. In a public debate I said that that was great but that they should tell an old person who is not as mobile, a businessman in a suit when it is raining, a mother with a baby and all the people who do not have the luxury of being able to ride a pushbike to the train station that they should surrender their car and ride a pushbike. It was a ridiculous proposition. I have always believed that if we want to encourage people to catch public transport, we must make it easy for them.

**Mr P. Papalia:** We built the railway; otherwise where would they be parking?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Is this the member for Warnbro's grievance?

Providing more parking at train stations is the best way to encourage people to use the facility. I therefore ask the minister whether he can provide us with an update on how stage 2 parking is going at Knock Place for Cockburn Central station, as a lot of people in my electorate are desperately seeking relief to find somewhere to park their cars.

**MR T.R. BUSWELL (Vasse — Minister for Transport)** [9.31 am]: I thank the member for Jandakot.

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** It is a fairly specific issue, member for Albany, and fairly easy to answer.

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** It is never the length of the bluster of the grievance, member for Albany; it is the substance of the matter raised.

The member for Jandakot has raised an important issue that I will address in a minute; that is, stage 2 car parking in Knock Place, also colloquially known as the old chicken farm.

**Mr J.M. Francis:** That's right.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I will talk about that in a second, as it is good news for the member for Jandakot's constituents.

**Mr P. Papalia:** There's a surprise!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Actually, I am here to help. Ask the member for West Swan.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**Mr P. Papalia:** Where's my \$15 million?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I will not pre-announce anything that is in the budget, but the amount the member for Warnbro will get will be closer to zero than to \$15 million; I can assure him of that.

The member for Swan Hills raised some very important issues the other week, and I am sure this issue around parking was raised by the member for Jandakot's constituents when the shadow cabinet visited his electorate recently. I understand that the Labor Party sent out some 5 000 letters to the constituents.

**Mr J.M. Francis:** Personally addressed.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** It sent out personally addressed letters to the constituents of the member for Jandakot's electorate and about 15 people attended.

**Mr J.M. Francis:** Seventeen, four of which were my friends; so, 13 people.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Sorry; seventeen people attended. Obviously, if it was such a pressing issue, they would have turned up in droves to discuss it. It is not that it was not such a pressing issue, but more that they thought no good would come of them talking to the shadow cabinet about it.

**Mr F.A. Alban:** It was a bigger success than the transport forum in Ellenbrook; it had five there.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Five, yes, and the days spent on the train lines scaring people off the stations onto the trains, which is probably the day we got the platforms cleared the quickest!

The member for Jandakot is right about the issue he raised. This is an issue that he has campaigned on since the last state election. I was looking back over some news clippings today on some of the comments he made then. The government, as he knows, made a \$50 million commitment to build 3 000 car parking places on the Joondalup to Mandurah line. We are well on the way to delivering those, and I outlined that to the house recently. I suspect we will over-achieve on that target, but I will not pre-empt yet more good news for the commuters of Perth.

**Mr J.M. Francis** interjected.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Yes, very, very good.

The member for Jandakot is right about the issue at Cockburn Central station. Stage 1 resulted in the construction of 210 permanent bays and 144 temporary bays. Stage 2, which involves a new car park to the north on Knock Place—also known as the old chicken farm—was originally anticipated to provide 400 bays. The good news is that we now anticipate 490 car parking bays in that place; almost an extra 100 bays to provide better amenity to the member for Jandakot's constituents as they travel to the train station. On the timing around that, it is anticipated the tender will be awarded in June or July this year. Construction, I assume, will start soon after, and we expect to have those bays online by the commencement of 2012. There will therefore be another 490 permanent spots in the Knock Place stage 2 development on top of other considerable investment in parking at Cockburn Central station. That is a very good outcome for the member for Jandakot's constituents and is in no small part a reflection of his continual representations on their behalf. So, that is good news. Of course that good news is being repeated at train lines south and north along the Mandurah to Joondalup line, in particular between Perth and Mandurah where the former government built a railway line without any car parking bays. It is easy for the member for Gosnells to say that people could take buses to the train line. That is exactly right.

**Mr C.J. Tallentire:** Are you investing in buses for people to get to the train stations?

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** In five hours we will talk to the member for Gosnells about it.

**Mr C.J. Tallentire:** Sixty-five buses a year, and they are replacing them.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I will show the member for Gosnells some data soon that examined the investment in buses as measured by passenger kilometres, which is really the measure of capacity in the system going back to

2001. The member for Gosnells may wonder what happened to investment in buses for seven or eight years of Labor; it did not happen.

**Ms R. Saffioti:** That's because we doubled the train line!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** As the member for Gosnells and I are discussing, we need to take —  
Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Take your seat, minister. The member for Jandakot has been given an opportunity in this place to deliver a grievance to the minister. The minister may be engaging in some other discussions with respect to that grievance, and I counsel him on that, but I do make note to other members of this place that a grievance is an opportunity to ask questions of a minister; it is not an opportunity for continual interjection from other members.

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** Let me get back to the point of the member for Jandakot; that is, 490 additional bays will be constructed and completed by early 2012. That is a big tick for the member for Jandakot and a big tick for his constituents.

Before I sit down, I will quickly report back to the member for Jandakot on the third issue that he has campaigned on tirelessly and that he has badgered me about incessantly. It is a noise-related issue, specifically as part of the widening of Kwinana Freeway. In response to his representations on behalf of his constituents, a noise wall will be put up as we widen that freeway between Leach Highway and Roe Highway and through three lanes of South Street. The member for Jandakot has talked to me about particular areas, such as Woodlea Crest, Leeming. He can report back to the constituents there that a sound wall will be going in as part of the contract to widen the freeway. That is another good transport outcome for his constituents, on top of the excellent transport outcome at Cockburn Central station on car parking bays and the excellent transport outcome on the widening of Kwinana Freeway. This is a reflection of our recognition that a lot of people use their cars to get to public transport and we are trying to provide balanced transport outcomes.