

METRONET PROJECTS — 2017–18 STATE BUDGET

417. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Treasurer:

What is the total value of unfunded and underfunded Metronet projects in the state budget, including the Ellenbrook line, the Byford extension, three of the four dangerous level crossings, a railcar manufacturing facility, Midland train station and Karnup train station; and what would be the state's net debt if these black holes had been funded?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I thank the shadow Minister for Transport for asking me a question. In due course she will ask the Minister for Transport a question.

Several members interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I am not sure when that will be but, in any event, that may happen sometime soon!

Several members interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I will make a couple of broad comments around our funding of Metronet. Those who follow politics closely will recall that when we announced Metronet, it was going to be a project that ran more than one term in government. Does the shadow Minister for Transport accept that?

Several members interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: That is what we have done. That is what our commitment was, and we have funded, whether it be planning money or construction money, a number of our projects and commitments as part of Metronet. Can I also highlight one point. There are actually two points; there will probably be four or five, but I will focus on two. The first point I will make is this: Metro Area Express light rail had money in the budget. There was a lot of money in the budget for MAX light rail. Can I go outside and catch MAX light rail?

Government members: No!

Mr B.S. WYATT: Thank you.

So it is not just the issue of putting money in the budget; it is doing the work and the commitment of ensuring that we deliver on our commitments. We have been, as a Labor Party, committed to Ellenbrook rail, in particular, for the better part of 15 years I would say, member for West Swan, and we will deliver on that. The second point I make is this: although I am very proud of the fact that ministers in the Labor government have gone to great effort to ensure that the election commitment spend has been limited as much as possible—because we are all about reprioritising the former government's spend into ours—guess what? That work continues. I will continue to ensure that reprioritisation will continue, to fund the new government's priorities. The former government may not like that, but that is what we will be doing.