

METRONET PROJECTS — 2017–18 STATE BUDGET

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

I refer to the \$2.7 billion committed in the budget to Metronet—the first time money has ever been allocated to the Ellenbrook rail line.

- (1) How does this government's investment in public transport compare with the previous Liberal–National government's efforts?
- (2) Can the minister advise how this government will deliver and build Metronet, including the Ellenbrook line, a project that is still opposed by the Liberal Party?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member for Swan Hills for the question.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Lucky she asks the questions!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Exactly.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: This is, of course, the biggest ever allocation to rail lines in the state's history—\$2.7 billion. It is for three projects—the Yanchep extension, the Thornlie–Cockburn line and, of course, Forrestfield—all fully funded in the budget. We also have funding for the planning of the Ellenbrook rail line, because do members know what the previous government left us on that project?

Government members: Nothing!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It left nothing—nothing. We have had to start from scratch, and that means doing the planning and getting it right. It is the same with Byford.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We are committed to public transport in WA. We are committed to Metronet, the Ellenbrook rail line, the Byford extension, the Yanchep extension and the Thornlie–Cockburn line. This is the most comprehensive package ever to be delivered in this state.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is good to see after eight and a half years of promising everything and doing nothing on Ellenbrook the Liberal Party's sudden concern about the Ellenbrook rail line. The opposition spokesperson for transport does not support the Ellenbrook rail line. The Leader of the Opposition does not support the Ellenbrook rail line. The member for Bateman does not support the Ellenbrook rail line. Remember who also did not support the Ellenbrook rail line a few months ago?

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr D.A. Templeman: Who was that?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The federal member for Pearce, Hon Christian Porter, did not support the Ellenbrook rail line, but I am happy to announce that he is a sudden convert. He is out there cheering for the Ellenbrook rail line. I have to say that I predicted it a few months ago when I said, "I am sure that the member for Pearce —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mrs L.M. Harvey: It's marginal seat politics.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is saying that Hon Christian Porter is supporting the Ellenbrook rail line only because it is marginal seat politics. That is what she said! I think more highly of the federal member for Pearce. I think he knows it is an excellent project and that is why he is 100 per cent behind the

Ellenbrook rail line. He is cheering for it. Of course he was Treasurer of the state for two years and did not do anything on it, even though the then government committed to it, but let us not go through that history.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange interjected.

The SPEAKER: There is a lot over here, if you are listening.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: There's a lot of interjections over there.

The SPEAKER: Member for Churchlands, I will do the interjections. I will not have you calling out in the chamber who is interjecting, so I call you to order for the third time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Can anyone remember the member for Churchlands' achievements when he was minister?

Point of Order

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: I seek clarification, Mr Speaker. You asked me a question and I answered it during that interjection.

The SPEAKER: No, you did not. You questioned me and said, "There's a lot of interjections over there." The member for Churchlands is on three, so I would be very careful.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Churchlands! Can anyone remember any of his great achievements as a minister? No! I cannot remember them either. The federal member for Pearce is there supporting it. I cannot wait to see the federal government funding on the table for the Ellenbrook rail line! It will be very impressive, I am sure. I cannot wait to see those funds.