

PUBLIC TRANSPORT — LIGHT RAIL

604. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to comments made by the minister on 3 September and broadcast on Radio 6PR.

- (1) Is the Minister for Transport genuinely ignorant of the Greens' longstanding advocacy of light rail, or is he just refusing to acknowledge that the Greens have been advocating this project since 2007?
- (2) Would the minister appreciate a briefing on the Greens (WA) proposals for light rail in the Perth metropolitan area?
- (3) Will the minister move for partial federal funding of the project, which the Australian Greens would be delighted to support?
- (4) Given that board member of Infrastructure Australia Professor Peter Newman has stated that the light rail could be built much sooner and for less than the projected \$1 billion-plus price tag, will the minister review the six-year project plan?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(4) The Minister for Transport appreciates the Greens' support of light rail, but notes its lack of practical experience in the delivery of large transport infrastructure projects.

Several members interjected.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: We are building it right now!

Hon Ken Travers interjected.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: And that is why the member is against light rail in town; we know that. He has other priorities.

The answer I have been provided concludes —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm): Order, members!

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: Thank you, Mr President; I know that the Greens at least take this subject seriously.

The state government will make further decisions around funding once more detailed planning has been completed.