

METRONET — MORLEY–ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

**439. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to building Metronet, which will reduce congestion for commuters, create local jobs and, in respect of Ellenbrook, finally connect our suburbs. Can the minister update the house on how this government is delivering its job-creating Metronet projects, including the first stage of the Morley–Ellenbrook line; and can the minister advise the house if she is aware of any opposition or threat to this important project for my community?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question and, of course, her deep commitment to Metronet and the Ellenbrook rail line.

This government is committed to Metronet. We have a record \$4.1 billion over the forward estimates for the delivery of the essential infrastructure our suburbs richly deserve. We know that the opposition is all over the place, and we know that this Leader of the Opposition opposes Metronet even more than the previous Leader of the Opposition did. Let us go through it.

Member for Butler, the Leader of the Opposition believes that the Yanchep rail line should not be built now and that we should wait until at least 2031 to do it. When asked about Ellenbrook in October 2017, she said —

It is irrelevant as to whether I support the Ellenbrook rail.

The Leader of the Opposition described Ellenbrook as being in the middle of nowhere. She said that the numbers for an Ellenbrook railway just do not stack up. Member for Butler, when talking about Yanchep, the Leader of the Opposition said she was “curious to hear the minister's explanation” as to why we were building the Yanchep rail line because the opposition did not believe it should be built now. We know that the opposition is anti-Metronet. Now we have a new team with the old thinking and the old mentality. It represents the worst of the Barnett government.

Irrespective of the deal struck by the member for Riverton and the member for Scarborough, the deal allowed the member for Nedlands, the Steven Bradbury of WA politics, to come skating through as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I do not think the members for Churchlands and Bateman just slipped over in that race; I think the members for Scarborough and Riverton put something on the ice that allowed them to fall over. I understand it was a close contest for deputy, or maybe it was the two votes.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, get back to the answer.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** We are seeing the worst of the Barnett government with its old mentality, jeopardising jobs and eliminating all infrastructure certainty for this state.