

SOUTHERN SUBURBS RAILWAY — PATRONAGE

**Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

Can the minister advise the house of the latest patronage figures for the southern suburbs rail line and inform the house of whether they confirm the wisdom of using the fast, direct route?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question and for his interest in the rail line. Members on both sides of the house are interested in the rail line, including you, Mr Speaker.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the members for Roe and South Perth to order.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** The member for South Perth will be particularly interested in these results. I am pleased to report that the rail line now has a weekday average of 41 000 patrons. That is an extraordinary result. That is in excess of 80 per cent of our target in just 11 weeks. We think that is an exceptional result. We are sure that members opposite will be particularly pleased with the results from Canning Bridge, Murdoch and Bull Creek stations. Mr Speaker, you will appreciate that these stations would not have been included on the rail line if we had gone via the Liberal route via the North Pole; that is, via Kenwick.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** These are the stations that the Liberals said no-one would ever use.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Moore to order.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** Within just 11 weeks of operation, Canning Bridge station is performing at 154 per cent of projected patronage, Bull Creek station at 128 per cent and Murdoch station at 127 per cent. Those stations have been massively successful. Formerly, a total of 16 000 people used the bus routes into the city from those suburbs. There is now a total of 41 000 people using the rail line compared with 16 000 people who used buses. The picture is very clear. I want to give one other statistic because it is important that we educate the opposition. The total patronage expected on the Liberal Party route —

**Mr J.H.D. Day** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Darling Range to order for the last time.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** These are their own figures. When the Liberal party developed its master plan, it projected that 28 280 patrons a day would use the system. We have already exceeded that figure by 42 per cent. There can be absolutely no doubt that the fast, direct route has been the way to go.