

METRONET — ARMADALE RAIL LINE — SHUTDOWN

850. Mr H.T. JONES to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the record investment in public transport infrastructure by the Cook Labor government, which will benefit generations to come.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the preparations for the biggest transformation of the Armadale line in 130 years?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this government's support for high-quality public transport compares with that of those opposite?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Darling Range for that question. Of course, in just six days, we will commence the biggest transformation of the Armadale rail line ever seen in this state. We will be delivering seven new train stations, removing 13 level crossings, elevating five and a half kilometres of rail line and creating more than six hectares of public open space. Importantly, member, the extension of the rail line to Byford is a key component of the Armadale line transformation. We understand that this project will cause disruption and we will be closing the Armadale rail line for up to 18 months, but we have been working hard to try to manage the disruption for those involved. I will go through the number of measures that we have put in place. Of course, we have offered free public transport to the regular users of public transport along that route to allow them to get on the replacement buses for free. We have added more than 100 additional buses to the network.

We have already done a lot of preparatory work for the project. Over 530 L beams have already been built and are ready to be moved onto site. We have created three new bus interchanges at Armadale, Cannington and Victoria Park. We have created 1.2 kilometres of priority bus lanes through Victoria Park. We have a new incident response service ready to make sure that if there is an incident along Welshpool Road, Albany Highway or Shepperton Road, we can remove the vehicles as soon as possible. We have installed 40 virtual receivers in traffic lights, which now make those traffic lights able to prioritise buses in that network that are running late. They are able to give the buses priority. We have installed nine CCTV cameras along the route. There are six variable message signs to inform people about progress and a new app has been developed and is available for commuters across the entire corridor so that they can be informed of any disruption and can get information about the estimated time it will take to get to particular points.

On the weekend, we held a number of information sessions in Cannington, Carlisle and Armadale, and they were really well attended. The feedback we got is that people understand that to have this transformation, these are the decisions that we had to take, and they were very appreciative of the information we were giving out. We are very proud of this project. The boom gates will be removed next Monday. Next Monday, the boom gates will be removed. For the residents in Queens Park, member for Cannington, who see the boom gates down at Wharf Street for between four and six hours a day, that will all stop next Monday. The boom gates will be shut down, they will be removed and the work will commence on the transformation.

We are working. I know it is going to be hard and there will be hiccups along the way, but I am very proud of the work that we are delivering to the outer areas—areas that the Liberal Party neglected and the Nationals WA would not know where they are and areas that are a priority of this government —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Leader of the Opposition would rip money away from these types of suburbs.

Mr W.J. Johnston: That's right; you'd never do it.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He would never do it. Those who live in the Darling Range electorate, who saw nothing delivered under the previous Liberal–National government, know that only a Labor government will deliver infrastructure projects of this size in their area.