

AUSTRALIND — RAILCARS

45. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to my question without notice 1266 of 29 November 2022 and to the Public Transport Authority's *Australind* action plan, of 23 January 2020, to deliver two new *Australind* trains, expected to be delivered in the 2022–23 financial year.

- (1) What is the projected date for the reopening of the Armadale line?
- (2) What is the manufacturing and fit-out status of the six new rail carriages promised for the delivery of the Bunbury to Perth and return services?
- (3) Upon delivery, what time frame is envisaged for the testing of the six rail carriages before the service becomes passenger operational?
- (4) Will the minister commit to the delivery of rail passenger operations on the new *Australind* rail service in the 2023 calendar year; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(4) The current *Australind* was introduced in 1987 with an operational life of 30 years. This means that the train should have been replaced by 2017 at the latest. The member needs to explain why the former Liberal–National government refused to fund or plan for its replacement and left the McGowan government to start this process from scratch. As previously stated, the procurement process of the new *Australind* railcars to replace the existing train is continuing as part of the wider procurement of the Metronet railcars. It is anticipated that the new locally-made *Australind* railcars will be ready for the reopening of the Armadale line in 2025.