

YANCHEP RAIL EXTENSION — BUDGET AND TIME LINE

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

I refer to the Yanchep rail extension project.

- (1) What was the original total cost and project time line from commencement to completion of the project at the time that the first contracts were signed?
- (2) What works of the project have been initiated and completed to date?
- (3) What changes of scope have been applied to the project since the McGowan government was elected to power in March 2017 and what is the proposed cost of each of those changes in scope?
- (4) Have there been any cost overruns on the original scope of work during construction of the project; and, if so, what are they?
- (5) What is the current expected total cost and project time line for commencement to completion of the project?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1)–(5) The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt supply chains, with particular pressure across the civil construction industry. Combined with record low unemployment and a record number of road and rail infrastructure projects, Western Australia is experiencing incredible demand across our construction and infrastructure sectors. Following extensive consultation and the skills summit hosted by the state government this year in July, the state government made a decision to review the asset investment program to ease pressure on industry, extend WA’s economic boom and support jobs into the future. As part of this, several project schedules have been adjusted to ensure the sustainability of the asset investment program, including the Yanchep rail extension.

I note the member’s comments in the Legislative Council on 14 September 2021 in support of this approach by the state government, and I quote —

... the extension of some of these projects is probably not a bad idea, economically speaking. It is probably quite reasonable of the government to extend the time frame on some of its Metronet projects so that it is a bit less in competition with the private sector ... it would be quite reasonable for them to occur ...

Works started on the Yanchep rail extension in late 2019, with completion now expected by late 2023. Significant works are underway, including clearing the rail corridor and future station sites from Butler Station to north of Yanchep Beach Road, piling for a number of road-over-rail bridges and noise walls and retaining walls at Alkimos Station.

Since the Yanchep rail extension was announced in 2017, new projects have come online in the northern suburbs that include new cyclepaths, such as the Mitchell Freeway extension to Romeo Road and future plans to extend further north. Following a review of the existing and planned cycling infrastructure as part of the Yanchep rail extension, the project will focus on connecting pedestrians and cyclists from local communities to the new stations. It was determined that a shared path along the Yanchep rail extension would be a duplication in the area. Work with stakeholders is currently underway to ensure shared path connections from local communities on day one of operations.

Although the cost to deliver the project continues to be monitored, the budget remains at \$532 million.