

THORNLIE–COCKBURN LINK

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

I refer to the Thornlie–Cockburn Link 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 over-runs on the original scope of work during construction of the project; and, if so, what are these?
- (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 in July this year, the state government made a decision to review the asset investment program to ease pressure on industry, extend Western Australia’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 Thornlie–Cockburn Link.

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 Thornlie–Cockburn Link in late 2019, with completion now expected by late 2024. Significant works are underway, including relocating critical underground infrastructure, relocating freight rail lines to the northern portion of the corridor, building a wider and higher Ranford Road Bridge, various enabling road works such as the completed Karel Avenue Bridge, site works at the future Ranford Road and Nicholson Road stations, and preparatory works to widen the Mandurah line tracks. No material changes have been made to the scope of the project, and although the cost to deliver the project continues to be monitored, the budget remains as \$716 million.