

AUSTRALIND — RAILCARS

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

I refer to the closure of the *Australind* train service for upgrades to the Armadale line.

- (1) Given the minister's media release of 23 January in which it was stated that the new *Australind* train cars were expected to be completed in 2022–23, how far through construction are these units and when will they be completed?
- (2) Given that the shutdown of the line is still one year away and the work is expected to take 18 months, can we assume that the line will reopen in two and a half years or mid to late 2024?
- (3) If the *Australind* railcars are completed on time, will they sit idle until the track is ready or, alternatively, is the government using the delay to cover another blowout in time in another government project?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I am deeply, deeply wounded! I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) As previously announced, the new locally made *Australind* railcars will be programmed for delivery and entry into service after the shutdown has concluded. Transwa has already acquired two additional fully accessible road coaches to assist with the provision of alternative services.