

METRONET PROJECTS

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented investment in public transport infrastructure across WA, including the delivery of Metronet.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress of more than a dozen Metronet projects currently underway, including the Byford rail extension, and outline how this investment is supporting local jobs, local businesses and the local economy?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of anyone who opposes this transformative project?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Darling Range for his question and, of course, for being such a strong advocate for his community and, in particular, improving transport across the entire area.

Members would be well aware that Metronet is delivering. This year, we opened the new Forrestfield–Airport Link, the first rail line connecting the airport to the city, with brand new stations at High Wycombe, Airport Central and Redcliffe. These projects are delivering jobs across the community. Over 10 000 people currently work on Metronet projects across the suburbs. Wherever we look, work is underway. Member for Southern River and member for Jandakot, we are working on the Thornlie–Cockburn Link. Work is well underway on relocating the Kewdale white oil line and a range of other services, and works are progressing on the Ranford Road Bridge. Member for Butler, work is underway on the Yanchep rail extension, across all three stations and on the three green bridges, with three deck pours already completed.

The Morley–Ellenbrook line is the rail line that the former government promised but never even started, let alone completed. Broken promises were made to the people of Ellenbrook. As people can see, work is underway across the entire corridor. Work is underway at the Whiteman Park station, the Ellenbrook station and the Malaga station. New bridges are being installed. The northern dive structure on the Tonkin Highway is nearly complete, and the southern dive structure is being completed. Work is underway on the Tonkin Highway alignment. At Byford, there is the new Thomas Road Bridge, and works are underway for the planning and all the geotech for the rail extension, together with all the level crossing removals through Armadale. At Bayswater, elevated structures have already been erected for the south-east platforms. We have opened the first part of the Leake Street underpass, and further work is underway on developing the platform and the relocation of that rail line.

Member for Mandurah, platforms are in place for the Lakelands station, and a bus interchange is being built. Of course, we will soon see further progress at that station.

The first railcars that were produced in WA are being tested in Nowergup. The new technology centre, the operations centre, is being developed in East Perth. The two-zone fare cap has been introduced to make sure that no matter how far and wide people travel across the Transperth network, the most they will pay is the cost of travelling two zones.

Today, as part of the latest initiative to make our rail lines and rail stations more attractive, we announced new lighting at the Perth train station. Members would be aware that the whole forecourt has been changed to make it a safer place. We have transit guards patrolling the forecourt of the Perth train station. We are also lighting up the train station in Perth. It is better than Flinders Street in Melbourne. To celebrate the incredible victory of the Socceroos overnight, we will be turning that train station green and gold until next Sunday.