

RAILWAY (METRONET) AMENDMENT BILL 2019

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by **Hon Stephen Dawson (Minister for Environment)**, read a first time.

Second Reading

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Environment) [5.45 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Railway (METRONET) Amendment Bill 2019 is to implement the legislative authority for the construction of the Morley–Ellenbrook rail line. This will enable the delivery of the McGowan government’s signature election commitment of building a rail line to Ellenbrook, creating thousands of jobs for Western Australians in the process. The 21-kilometre line will run from the growing Ellenbrook town centre, along the western side of the new Lord Street, through land north of Marshall Road and down the middle of Tonkin Highway, connecting at Bayswater station on the Midland line. New Metronet stations are planned for Bayswater, Morley, Noranda, Malaga, Whiteman Park and Ellenbrook, with a further station planned for Bennett Springs east as that area is further developed. Bayswater station will undergo a major redevelopment, becoming a key Metronet precinct, with a new higher rail bridge, improved connections and a new road configuration aimed at reducing congestion. Works on the Bayswater station component of the Morley–Ellenbrook line are expected to commence later this year.

Morley station and Noranda station will be built within the Tonkin Highway median and will serve their local suburbs and a broader catchment both east and west of Tonkin Highway, including the suburbs of Beechboro, Kiara, Lockridge and Eden Hill. Malaga station will be built to the west of Beechboro Road North and will connect to the strategic commercial and industrial jobs in the Malaga employment hub and serve the nearby suburbs of Ballajura, Bennett Springs, Alexander Heights and Landsdale. Whiteman Park station will provide a world-class public transport connection to the entry to one of Perth’s premier tourist destinations. The new Whiteman Park station will provide tourists and Western Australian families alternative transport options when visiting the park and will serve as the local station for residents in Dayton, Brabham and Henley Brook.

The completion of Ellenbrook station will finally complete the vision for the local town centre that has been decades in the making. Ellenbrook has continued to grow rapidly over recent years and a new train station will connect local residents to much-needed employment, health and education facilities in key areas. Metronet is all about creating an integrated and coordinated public transport network for the future. These suburbs along the rail corridor are being developed and planning for future growth in the corridor is happening now. This rail line is not creating urban sprawl; it is matching the existing urban development front and is already helping to facilitate better planning outcomes. Future growth centred around train stations will ultimately lead to higher public transport patronage, shorter journey times and better access to jobs.

Building a rail line to Ellenbrook will increase the connectivity of the public passenger rail network, alleviate urban congestion, and ensure efficient travel times for those accessing jobs, services and amenities. This development comes after a lack of investment on necessary transport infrastructure throughout the corridor in the past. Station and precinct design will incorporate bus, cycle and pedestrian links to support more sustainable and active travel patterns. The delivery of the new rail line will also bring improvements to the surrounding bus network as services integrate with new stations.

Modern public transport connections enhance local communities and provide invaluable links to the wider metropolitan area. The Morley–Ellenbrook line will allow the communities of the north-eastern suburbs to experience the benefits that a train line can bring, as previously demonstrated through the delivery of the Mandurah and Joondalup lines.

The Railway (METRONET) Amendment Bill 2019 is the latest milestone in the delivery of the McGowan government’s program of job-creating Metronet projects.

Pursuant to standing order 126(1), I advise that this bill is not a uniform legislation bill. It does not ratify or give effect to an intergovernmental or multilateral agreement to which the government of the state is a party; nor does this bill, by reason of its subject matter, introduce a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth.

The Minister for Transport is required under section 18A of the Transport Co-ordination Act 1966 to table a report by the director general of Transport on the planned construction of a new railway line from Bayswater to Ellenbrook and, under section 96(2) of the Public Works Act 1902, to table a map showing the course to be taken by, and the middle line of, the railway. I table the report and map.

[See papers 3362 and 3363.]

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I commend the bill to the house and I table the explanatory memorandum.

Extract from *Hansard*
[COUNCIL — Thursday, 31 October 2019]
p8704b-8705a
Hon Stephen Dawson

[See paper 3364.]

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

House adjourned at 5.50 pm
