

*AUSTRALIND TRAIN SERVICE***421. Mr G.M. CASTRILLI to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

I refer to the minister's plan to cut to cut the *Australind* train service and force people in the south west to get onto buses and then transfer to the Perth-Mandurah rail link.

- (1) Is the minister aware that this proposal could cause serious problems for elderly and disabled people, as well as children travelling alone, who would need to embark and disembark from buses and trains and have the inconvenience of changing midway through the trip?
- (2) Is it the case that the minister is pursuing this change to force people onto the Perth-Mandurah rail link so that she can increase the passenger numbers on her pet project?

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:**

- (1)-(2) I am glad the Perth-Mandurah railway has been brought to the fore again as being at fault for causing the Iraq war, bird flu and heavy rain at Lake Grace! What was the latest? There was some problem with the Esperance port the other day, and that got tied into the Perth-Mandurah rail! I am glad the member for Bunbury used the word "proposal", because that is all this is. We went to Bunbury and put a proposition to the local community that we believe we can get a better configuration of public transport -

**Mr M.W. Trenorden** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I am sure the member for Vasse has some interesting things to say, but this is not the appropriate time. I call the member to order.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** "Mr AvonLink" also has something interesting to say.

**Mr T. Buswell:** I was only thinking about it! You are always on my mind!

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** The reality is that we are spending around \$7.5 million a year on providing these services. Frankly, I do not believe that the community of Bunbury - or, indeed, the entire community up and down that line - is getting a very good deal out of this. The situation with the morning service is that only 48 people on average use that service every weekday. The number is even less on weekends. In a community of 30 000 people -

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, please take a seat. I want to correct my last comment. It was actually the member for Avon, not the member for Vasse. I call the member for Leschenault to order for the first time.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** In a community of 30 000 people, it seemed to us that the fact that only 48 people each morning were using this service was a pretty good indication that it was not actually hitting the spot. We have made it very clear that we have no intention, whatever may be the outcome of this consultation, of discontinuing the *Australind* service. We are giving the community that option. The right thing to do is to give the community alternatives and to ask people whether, in addition to an *Australind* service, they would also like -

**Mr M.W. Trenorden** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Avon to order and urge him to stop.

**Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN:** Whenever I hear the member for Avon, I think of bozone. Bozone is a substance that surrounds particularly stupid people; it prevents a bright idea from penetrating their brain. The member for Avon is Mr Bozone; and, unlike the ozone layer, there is no sign whatsoever of the bozone layer breaking down in the men's party.

The government has put a good proposition to the community. At the end of the day, if the 30 000 people of Bunbury want to stick with the services as they are currently configured, that is what we will do. However, the right thing for the government to do is to give them that option.

## SENATOR DAVID JOHNSTON - POLICE TARGETING OF LIBERAL PARTY FUNCTIONS

**422. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:**

Is the minister aware of the allegations Senator David Johnston made last Friday that the police in the south west deliberately targeted recently held Liberal Party functions in Bunbury and Boyanup?

**Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:**

I thank the member for the question. It should be noted that Senator Johnston has exceeded his bizarre performance in the federal Parliament with the comments alluded to by the member for Albany. The senator