

Mr DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) —

MEMBERS STATEMENTS

Legislative Council Tuesday 21st February 2017

Frankston rail line level crossings

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Mr DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) — Today I want to draw the attention of the house to the announcement made yesterday by the Minister for Public Transport in which she indicated that the Andrews government would respond to the community in some way by putting rail under road trenches on the Frankston line at Charman and Park roads, Cheltenham, and Balcombe Road, Mentone.

This is in stark contrast to her activities on the Caulfield to Dandenong line where she has chosen sky rail, and it leaves open the question of what will occur on the rest of the Frankston line. It is very clear the government have held back with the announcement on the rest of the Frankston line because they are going to do some version of sky rail down there. The community do not want it. It is pretty clear what is going on. The government want to skate through to the election — try to get past the election — without coming clean on what they propose to do.

It is also very clear that there has been a huge change by the transport minister. She said that trenches were a giant scar through these local communities, but now she has adopted trenches. How bizarre — I mean, seriously. Clearly the community want trenches, but the rejection of them on the Caulfield to Dandenong line was clearly political expediency of the worst type. It was a nasty, punishing decision by the Andrews government to target people on that line. I am reminded of George Orwell's quote, and I will make some adjustment: it is pretty clear that some people are more equal than others, according to the Andrews government.