

WA LABOR'S PLAN FOR
**Train Services
to Bunbury**



WA Labor Policy

October 2016

WA LABOR'S PLAN FOR TRAIN SERVICES TO BUNBURY

Western Australians love the Australind. It's a South West icon.

However the Australind service in 2016 is only 45 minutes faster than it was 70 years ago.

It just hasn't kept up with other 21st century transport nor delivered the economic benefits to the South West that it could.

We can do better.

That's why we need a real plan to will revitalise Bunbury to Perth travel. We will modernise the passenger experience and provide a more direct service.

Creating new opportunities for tourists to enhance their Australind experience and take advantage of the tourism potential of Bunbury, Collie and surrounding communities along the train line will help grow local economies and create local jobs.

By developing specific tourism packages for Australind passengers they can access accommodation and tour packages as part of their travel experience.

It won't stop there. We need to plan for the future. The work by the previous Labor Government to plan for a new, high speed train service between Perth and Bunbury has stalled under the current Liberal-National Government.

We will put these plans back on the table and work towards a long-term plan for high speed rail to Bunbury.

The South West is a beautiful part of the State and a place I love to explore with my family.

I welcome this investment in the Australind to help open the South West to future opportunities.

Mark McGowan
WA Labor Leader



STAY INFORMED:

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Mark McGowan MP

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Delivering Revitalised Train Services to Bunbury and the Southwest

A McGowan Labor Government will:

- Invest in new rail cars to revitalise the Australind train service.
- Upgrade smaller regional stations between Bunbury and Perth where necessary, especially in terms of disability access.
- Develop specific tourism packages for Bunbury, Collie and the surrounding communities linked to a revitalised Australind Service.
- Provide an additional no stop Australind service between Bunbury and Perth and vice-versa.
- Work with the private leaseholders to improve signalling and increase passing loops between Mundijong and Perth.
- Plan and determine route definition to develop a long-term plan for a fast train to Bunbury.
- Consult with the City of Bunbury and local community to confirm a site for a train station closer to the City centre.
- Allocate an initial \$30 million to a Rail Futures Fund, to start the program of revamping the service.
- Include the Mundijong-Perth section of the Australind Service as part of METRONET, WA Labor's long-term, integrated transport plan.

A REVITALISED AUSTRALIND TRAIN TO SERVICE THE SOUTH WEST

A McGowan Labor Government is committed to delivering a revitalised Australind rail service that will support the needs of the growing communities and deliver an economic benefit to Bunbury, Collie and the South West region.

The Australind has serviced the region well for over 69 years but in recent years it has suffered through a lack of investment and a failure to properly promote the service in conjunction with tourism packages for the region.

New Rail Cars

In 1987, when the self-powered diesel carriages were introduced, the interior airline style seating and catering generated the advertising slogan of the Australind as “the train that thinks it’s a plane.”¹

Those rail cars are now ageing and need replacement. Recent information shows that the rail cars are 29 years old, with a maximum life of 40 years.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will invest in new rail cars to revitalise the Australind train service.**

As part of a passenger rail rolling stock manufacturing strategy a McGowan Labor Government will set out a long term plan for manufacturing passenger rail cars in Western Australia. New Australind rail cars will be part of this strategy. The guaranteed levels of local content for new rail car purchases will secure existing maintenance jobs and potentially grow thousands of jobs in the manufacturing of rolling stock and its associated supply chain.²

¹ Transwa website <http://www.transwa.wa.gov.au/services/australind>
² WA Labor Plan for Jobs, p103

Greater Access to Trains Stations

Some of the smaller stations along the Australind line have had little maintenance in recent years and questions in Parliament by WA Labor reveal that three in particular, Cookernup, North Dandalup and Yarloop, have no access for people with disabilities.³

Part of a revitalised Australind service will include an assessment of needs at the inland stations and improvements, especially in terms of access for people with disabilities.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will upgrade smaller regional stations between Bunbury and Perth where necessary, especially in terms of disability access.**

³ Legislative Council, Questions without Notice, Hansard 20 August 2014, pp5571-5572 and 18 August 2016, p4857

Bringing Tourists to the South West

To better attract visitors to Bunbury and the South West, we need to make it easier for people who may not wish to hire a car and drive long distances on unfamiliar roads.

The WA Government's Transwa website contains only booking information for the Australind. There is an opportunity to also provide links for tourists to access accommodation and tour packages to complement their travel arrangements.

Similarly, many tour operator and tourist information websites do not offer the option of a rail booking with their tour packages. There are clear benefits of integrated travel/accommodation/activity packages to tour and accommodation providers. Patronage on the Australind can be increased and the train's potential more fully realised through a coordinated approach to destination marketing to Bunbury and the region.

A revitalised Australind train service has a key part to play in bringing those visitors to Bunbury and Collie including outdoor and adventure packages around Wellington National Park and the Collie River. A coordinated approach between government, accommodation providers and local tourism operators is needed to make the most of the new service.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will develop specific tourism packages for Bunbury, Collie and the surrounding communities linked to a revitalised Australind Service.**

Improved rail services and tourism packages to Bunbury and the South West will grow international and domestic visitor growth.

This initiative is underpinned by a McGowan Labor Government commitment to inject \$425 million over five years to establish WA as one of the world's great tourist destinations and support the tourism and hospitality sectors to create jobs and diversify the economy. Tourism to Bunbury, Collie and the South West is an integral part of WA Labor's strategy.

This funding will include \$45 million per year for five years invested in Destination Marketing, including business events, domestic marketing and international marketing, delivering a total of \$225 million in secure funding to grow the State's tourism industry.

Tourism WA estimates 1.1 million visitors took part in food and wine experiences in 2013, with local specialities a key attraction. WA Labor's Plan for Jobs supports regional economies by making it easier for tourists to try our unique local products by freeing up regulations around regional collectives and farmers markets.¹

¹ WA Labor's Plan for Jobs, p65

NO STOP SERVICE TO PERTH

While the Australind is popular with some travellers, it does not serve the needs of those who wish to travel quickly. The current two hour thirty minute journey is ideal for tourists and holiday-makers but less suited to people who wish to commute to Perth for work or appointments.

WA Labor will provide an additional no stop Australind service between Perth and Bunbury to reduce travel times.

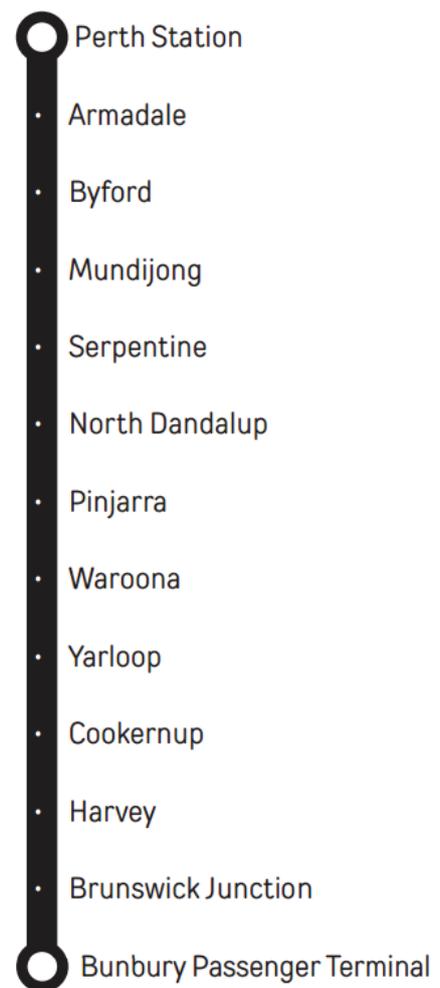
- **A McGowan Labor Government will provide an additional no stop Australind service between Bunbury and Perth and vice-versa.**

A McGowan Labor Government, in negotiation with Brookfield Rail, the current leaseholder of the track, will improve signalling and increase passing loops between Mundijong and Perth to improve the speed of this new express service.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will work with the private leaseholders to improve signalling and increase passing loops between Mundijong and Perth.**

The Australind service in 2016 is only 45 minutes faster than it was 69 years ago. The service has not kept pace with other 21st Century transport. While the current service should be maintained and enhanced to meet the needs of more leisurely travellers, there is clearly a need for a no stop service.

Current Stops from Perth to Bunbury



Source: Transwa Australind Timetable online at <http://www.transwa.wa.gov.au/Portals/0/Timetables/Australind.pdf?ver=2016-08-29-140537-697>

SOUTH WEST RAIL TO THE FUTURE

A McGowan Labor Government will plan for the future long term rail travel needs of Bunbury and the South West region.

The City of Bunbury is home to more than 33,000 people and Greater Bunbury has a population of more than 67,000 and is still growing. In 2011, the estimated South West population was 158,615. Between 2006-2011, the South West grew by 22.1% compared to 14.3% for WA as a whole, and 8.3% for Australia over the same period. It has one of the fastest growing regional populations in Australia.¹

In 2008, the former WA Labor Government proposed a feasibility study into a high speed train service between Perth and Bunbury. The study was completed in 2010 but has since languished under the current Liberal-National government, with no further action evident in the intervening six years.

A high speed rail link between Perth and Bunbury has been identified as important for tourism, retail and commercial links between the two cities and as one of the drivers of international and domestic tourism growth.²

The 2010 feasibility study recommended a route involving the construction of 140 kilometres of new track from the existing Mandurah line at Anketell, following the Kwinana Freeway and Forrest Highway to Lake Clifton and then following the Old Coast Road to Bunbury.³

WA Labor will continue the planning and route definition

to develop a long term plan for high speed rail to Bunbury to ensure the corridor is preserved for future construction.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will plan and determine route definition to develop a long-term plan for a fast train to Bunbury.**

Bringing the Australind into the heart of Bunbury

To cater for commuters, day-trippers and holiday-makers to Bunbury, there is a real need for a rail station closer to the Bunbury City centre. Easy access to accommodation for tourists requires convenient transport into the centre, where options for short term stays are concentrated.

WA Labor's plan is for a train station to be located close to Bunbury's CBD and a McGowan Labor Government will consult with the City of Bunbury, the local community and business stakeholders to confirm a site.

Some planning work has been done and a site identified in the Koombana North Bunbury Waterfront Structure Plan, however further consultation will be required to ensure all alternatives are fully examined.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will consult with the City of Bunbury and local community to confirm a site for a train station closer to the City centre**

When a site is confirmed, engineering design work will commence to plan rail line access to the station and to plan for the construction of the station itself.

¹ South West Regional Blueprint, South West Development Commission, Regional Development Australia – South West, December 2014, p46

² Ibid, p29, p36

³ Perth to Bunbury Feasibility Study; Final Report, Public Transport Authority, January 2010, pp74-76

GUARANTEEING THE FUTURE

Rail Future Fund

A McGowan Labor Government recognises the importance of rail connections to the Southwest and will allocate \$30 million to a Rail Futures Fund to commence the implementation of our plan to revamp the service.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will allocate an initial \$30 million to a Rail Futures Fund, to start the program of revamping the service.**

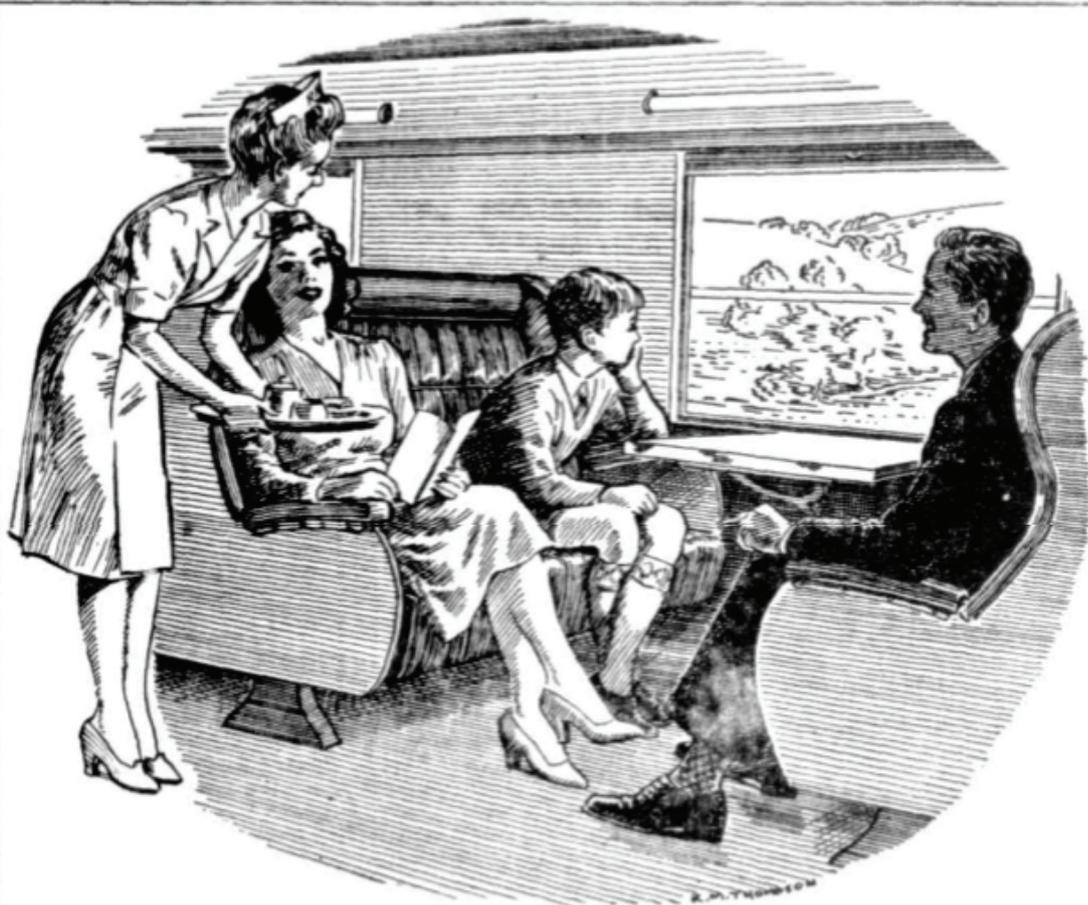
Linking the Australind to METRONET

WA Labor's plan for rail services to Bunbury will be supported by linking the outer metropolitan segments of the Australind train route to METRONET.

METRONET is WA Labor's integrated and coordinated transport system that will meet Perth's long-term transport needs and create thousands of jobs. By including the Mundijong to Perth section of the Australind's journey into the integrated METRONET plan, signalling and looping can be made more efficient and reduce the Australind's current journey time.

The rail line efficiencies will also assist in reducing the journey time target for WA Labor's new Australind express service.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will include the Mundijong-Perth section of the Australind Service as part of METRONET, WA Labor's long-term, integrated transport plan.**



MILES OF COMFORT

The "AUSTRALIND" Express is the very latest in modern rail travel. Rest in comfortable seats . . . take in the view through scenic windows . . . and when you desire refreshments a hostess will bring them right to your seat. When travelling between **PERTH AND BUNBURY** you will discover a new standard of rail travel comfort in the bright, new modern train

"THE AUSTRALIND"

★ Perth to Bunbury in 3 1/2 hours.
Only stop Brunswick Junction
to connect with new bus service
to and from Collie.

TIMETABLE:	
Perth	dep. 8.55 a.m.
Brunswick Jct.	arr. 11.38 a.m.
Bunbury	arr. 12.10 p.m.
Bunbury	dep. 2.40 p.m.
Brunswick Jct.	dep. 3.12 p.m.
Perth	arr. 5.55 p.m.

SUNDAY EXCEPTED.



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

Ad from The West Australian, Tuesday 2 December 1947, p5.

Sourced online from the National Library of Australia at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article46820183.5.pdf?followup=44dd78f74056e9e2fd64a172d4236a7d>

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A revitalised Australind train to service the South West

No stop service to Perth

South West rail to the future

Guaranteeing the future

markmcgowan.com.au/Australind |  **Mark McGowan MP**