

# No train to Ellenbrook until 2031: transport chief

■ **Gareth Parker**  
State Political Editor

Ellenbrook will not get a rail line before 2031, the State's most senior transport bureaucrat says.

Department of Transport director-general Reece Waldock yesterday confirmed the Barnett Government had dumped plans for a bus rapid transit system to Ellenbrook, and the north-eastern suburb will have to wait for a rail line.

BRT was first floated as the Government's preferred option by Transport Minister Troy Buswell after the Government reneged on a 2008 election pledge to build a rail line to Ellenbrook.

*The West Australian* revealed in August that the Government came within hours of announcing the BRT project in the lead-up to the State election, and had produced draft media statements, a video animation of the preferred route and mock-ups of stations at Ellenbrook and Gnangara Road. Mr Waldock

said the Government spent \$175,000 in 2011 and \$705,000 last year planning the project but the cost, which came in at more than \$100 million, "caught us all out a bit".

He also revealed the extension of the Joondalup line from Butler to Yanchep, which was listed as a priority in the Government's 2011 draft public transport master plan, had been pushed back beyond 2021.

Business cases for the two public transport projects the Government did commit to during the election — the MAX light rail system and the rail line to the airport and Forrestfield — have not been completed.

Mr Waldock said options for the light rail route through the Perth CBD had been submitted for Cabinet's consideration.

The City of Perth opposes light rail in the Hay or Murray street pedestrian malls.