

# The West Australian

[thewest.com.au](http://thewest.com.au)

News

**Airport train link on track for a 2020 arrival**

Daniel Mercer

241 words

19 February 2018

The West Australian

TWAO

Second

4

English

(c) 2018, West Australian Newspapers Limited

WA Transport Minister Rita Saffioti has declared the \$1.8 billion **Forrestfield**-Airport rail **link** is on track to be completed within three years despite the complexity of the mega project.

Ms Saffioti said yesterday work on the rail line was progressing as planned as she and Premier Mark McGowan toured a section of tunnel in High Wycombe that will connect with one of three train stations to be built as part of the development.

The consortium leading the project, Salini Impregilo-NRW, has deployed two giant boring machines to dig tunnels — totalling 16.5km — needed for the line.

According to Ms Saffioti, the two machines were about 20 per cent of the way through the tunnels, which had to pass through sand, clay and rock.

She said the tunnelling was expected to be finished within two years and the line itself by late 2020. The State Government would then face the task of getting commuters to use the new stations, including at Redcliffe and the airport, Ms Saffioti said.

Key to the strategy would be encouraging local councils such as the City of Kalamunda to allow higher-density developments around the stations.

“It’s going through and it’s going as well as it can be,” she said. Mr McGowan said: “This will help ... **Perth** become a world city when we **link** our airport on the rail network.”

Document TWAO000020180218ee2j0000g