



WA Government attacked for costly renaming of Elizabeth Quay bus and train station

By [Jacob Kagi](#)

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Photo: The Esplanade bus and train station will be renamed to make it easier for people making their way to Elizabeth Quay when it officially opens early next year. (ABC News: Pamela Medlen)

The WA Government is under fire for spending hundreds of thousands of dollars changing the name of an inner-city bus and train station, with the Opposition labelling it a waste of money.

The Public Transport Authority (PTA) confirmed the cost of renaming the Esplanade Train Station and Esplanade Busport was expected to be \$700,000.

From late January, they will become the Elizabeth Quay Train Station and Elizabeth Quay Bus Station to coincide with the opening of the Government's landmark waterfront project.

The cost of changing the name includes the replacement of network maps on every train carriage, reprinting timetables and modifying information on bus stops along routes leading to the station.

The required work also includes adjustments to platform and on-train announcements and modifications to the ticketing system.

Transport authority defends name change

The PTA said the name change was necessary to avoid confusion but Labor attacked it as wasteful, at a time when the Government was expected to post a budget deficit for the financial year of nearly \$3 billion.



"This is \$700,000 at a time they are cutting doctors and nurses from our hospitals, \$700,000 at a time when they are going to announce a record deficit," Labor's transport spokeswoman Rita Saffioti said.

"Instead of getting more people on our trains and buses, all they are doing is creating more colour and movement."

Transport Minister Dean Nalder referred questions on the issue to the PTA, which maintained the expenditure was necessary.

"To make it even easier for our passengers to recognise their destination, it is appropriate that Esplanade Busport, Esplanade Station [named for the Esplanade Reserve, which has been absorbed into Elizabeth Quay] and the new ferry terminal be named to reflect the new major landmark in the area," the PTA said in a statement.

"[The January 31 changeover date] was chosen to minimise the cost of the name change, as it corresponds with an already-planned major timetable change relating to construction of Aubin Grove train station."

Curtin University marketing lecturer Luke Butcher said he could understand why the cost of the change would raise eyebrows but argued there was merit in it.

"Particularly in the early stages when they need to make an impact, making it as easy as possible for people to get there is really important," Mr Butcher said.

"The last thing you want is confusion and people going to the wrong train station."

Name-change expenditure angers union

Meredith Hammat from Unions WA described the move as outrageous.

"This is another example of the Barnett Government having its priorities all wrong," she said.

"They're wasting money on projects that won't contribute anything to this state while our schools, our hospitals, public transport is really suffering from a lack of adequate funding.

"And of course we've got a massive debt in this state and there are many West Australians who are looking for jobs.

"It's one set of rules for everyone else and a special set of rules for the Government.

"There's no problem with them wasting money on vanity projects but the rest of us have to tighten our belts and do it tough."



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-12-16/government-criticised-over-elizabeth-quay-train-station-renaming/7035242?section=wa>