



# MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA  
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



Friday 7 October 2011

## **SAFFIOTI CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF LOCAL GRAPEGROWERS**

Amid new calls for the import ban on international grapes to be lifted, Labor Member for West Swan Rita Saffioti has called on the State Government to clarify their position on the import ban.

Ms Saffioti said she had been made aware of new information from the Swan Valley Grape Growers Association that particular agents are pushing to see the import ban lifted and will do what they can to land international grapes in WA.

“This would be devastating for the local grape industry,” Ms Saffioti said.

“The State Government must make protecting domestic grape producers and the Swan Valley a priority.”

Ms Saffioti has written to the Minister for Agriculture requesting an update on the prospect of international grapes coming to WA.

“What I am asking from the State Government is a clear position to oppose the importing of international grapes,” she said.

“I have been told by many local grape growers that if international grapes enter the market the impact on the local industry would be devastating.

“The Swan Valley is an asset to Western Australia, however without table grapes what we all love about the Valley will all be gone.

“State Government needs to make the Swan Valley and our local industry its priority.”

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