



MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



Tuesday 11 October 2011

BIG CHANGES TO WEST SWAN BOUNDARIES

Significant changes have been made to the State electorate boundaries of West Swan.

Ms Saffioti said she was surprised by the magnitude of the change and was disappointed to lose Landsdale and the north-west portion of Ballajura from her electorate.

“These boundaries do not technically come into effect until the next election, so I will continue to be the representative for these areas,” she said.

The Labor MLA welcomed the opportunity to represent the people of Ellenbrook.

“Frankly, I was shocked when the Liberal Party recommended to the Electoral Commission that the suburb of Ellenbrook be transferred from Frank Alban’s seat to my seat of West Swan,” Ms Saffioti said.

“Very rarely do you see a political party volunteer to give up a suburb - I suspect the broken Barnett Government commitment to deliver a rail line to Ellenbrook, had something to do with the Liberals wanting to give away Ellenbrook.

“WA Labor has a strong and proud history in Ellenbrook, and I am excited about the prospect of carrying on this tradition.”

Ms Saffioti said while technically she was not yet the Member for Ellenbrook, she will make it a priority over the next 18 months to meet as many local residents as possible, to listen to their concerns, hopes and aspirations.

As the current neighbouring MLA, Ms Saffioti has already been in touch and campaigned with a number of Ellenbrook residents over a range of issues, such as:

- Cost of living increases, including the new drainage levy applied to Ellenbrook residents;
- The need for better roads throughout the region, including the demand for traffic lights at the intersection of Lord Street and Reid Highway, the duplication of Gngangara Road through to Alexander Drive, the need for the early construction of Henley Brook Avenue from Reid Highway to Gngangara Road, to alleviate congestion on Lord Street and West Swan Road; and
- The broken promise by the Barnett Liberal Government to build a railway to Ellenbrook;

Ms Saffioti said her campaigning had already achieved some success, with the Government committing to some road improvements in the area such as traffic lights at the intersection of Lord Street and Reid Highway and the minor works to improve Gngangara Road around Ellenbrook.

“There is a lot more to be done - the full duplication of Gngangara Road is a definite priority,” she said.

“And of course there is the need for better public transport. I will be working with the Shadow Minister for Transport Ken Travers to develop our public transport plan for Ellenbrook.”

Ms Saffioti said WA Labor had a proud record of delivering in Ellenbrook during its time in Government. These included:

- The construction of Arbor Grove and Ellen Stirling Primary Schools;
- The construction of Ellenbrook Secondary College and funded its expansion to Year 12;
- The construction of the Ellenbrook Police Station; and
- The opening of the Ellenbrook town centre.

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