



MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



Friday 15 July 2011

DISAPPOINTMENT AND ANGER OVER GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK PLAN

Local MLA Rita Saffioti said she was bitterly disappointed with the Government's public transport network plan released yesterday.

"The Government has broken an election promise made to the people of Ellenbrook to build a rail line. I am angry the Premier won't admit that and apologise to the people of Ellenbrook".

Ms Saffioti said she was also angry that arguments put forward by the Barnett Government to justify the Yanchep extension, were not used to justify a rail line to Ellenbrook.

The network plan states that in respect to the Yanchep extension:

"early development of this line will provide developers with the certainty required to develop at a higher density, particularly around train stations and within walkable catchments of services".

Yet the Government plan completely ignores the needs of home owners, prospective homeowners and developers around Ellenbrook and along the Lord Street Growth corridor.

Ms Saffioti and Shadow Transport Minister Ken Travers have called for the modelling underpinning the public transport plan to be released.

"Populations forecasts for the City of Swan see the catchment area for a future Ellenbrook line growing from 54,950 to 119,478 by 2031. The same forecasters predicted that the area north of Butler will grow from 7,024 to 83,775 by 2031", Mr Travers said

The Barnett Government must explain why 84,000 people is enough to justify a line to Yanchep but 120,000 people does not support building the line they promised to Ellenbrook.

Ms Saffioti said she was sceptical of the Government plans to build a dedicated bus transit way to Ellenbrook.

“With no funding and no construction timeframe you just can’t believe anything the Liberals say in respect to public transport.”

Ms Saffioti said she was also disappointed there doesn’t appear to be any better linkages between Ellenbrook and Midland, and Ellenbrook and Malaga (a major employment hub in the region).

“Mr Buswell went on radio and said that the people of Ellenbrook need to be connected to Midland and Malaga, but hasn’t provided any improved services in this respect”.

Ms Saffioti said she has also requested a briefing from the Public Transport Authority asking for the underlying assumptions, including predicted passenger numbers that underpin the public transport plan.

Contact: Rita Saffioti 9248 3822