



MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



Thursday 17 March 2011

SAFFIOTI PRESSURES BUSWELL ON ORCHID PARK BUS STOP REMOVAL

Local MLA Rita Saffioti used Parliament to directly pressure Minister for Transport Troy Buswell to reinstate a bus stop to service Orchid Park residents.

After a disappointing response from Transport Minister Troy Buswell to Ms Saffioti's initial requests, the West Swan MLA today raised the matter directly to Minister Buswell in a Parliamentary grievance.

Ms Saffioti believed the Minister now fully understood the issues Orchid Park residents are facing to be able to use the available bus service.

"Ms Buswell seemed to take the problem on board I am hoping he will make the right decision," she said.

"The Minister understands the dangers for residents crossing Beechboro Road and will now request his Department to examine locating a new bus stop on the western side of this extremely dangerous road."

In November last year the residents were shocked to find their bus stop of ten years had been removed and not replaced without any significant consultation with passengers.

Ms Saffioti was contacted by the concerned residents and followed up on the issue, confirming that the bus stop had purposely been removed by the Public Transport Authority due to road safety issues affecting bus drivers.

"This was the only bus stop that caters to residents living in Orchid Park," Ms Saffioti said.

"No genuine consideration was given to improving the bus stop or relocating the bus stop further south which would increase the safety for passengers and bus drivers.

"A common sense solution to the problem is all that is needed."

Ms Saffioti said she expected the issue to be resolved in the coming weeks.

In his response in Parliament Mr Buswell said it was a good use of the grievance process by the local Member.

Local resident Mabel Morais said she was thrilled that Ms Saffioti took this issue up with such passion.

"Rita met with us and spent the time to see for herself what we had to put up with," Mrs Morais said.

"We knew she would do everything she could to help us."

Contact: Rita Saffioti 9248 3822