



MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



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BARNETT GOVERNMENT MUST ACT TO IMPROVE POLICE PRESENCE IN BALLAJURA

Local Labor MLA Rita Saffioti has once again called on the Barnett Government to improve police presence in Ballajura.

Ms Saffioti said the Ballajura community was fed up with being ignored by the Barnett Government, and the weekend crime spree was the last straw for many Ballajura residents.

“After surveying the crime spree and talking to some of the victims involved, these mindless and senseless attacks need to be stopped,” she said.

“The Government must do more to make our suburbs safer and let families feel safe in their own home. I am sick of hearing this Police Minister talk tough, but actually ignore the real problems on our streets.

“There is simply not enough police on our streets. We need more police on our streets to act as a deterrent and to be able to respond to calls for help.

“The police themselves are not to blame. There needs to be resources allocated to policing the suburbs, to allow the police to do their job effectively.”

Ms Saffioti said the Ballajura community still felt betrayed by the Barnett Government’s decision to close down the Ballajura police station.

“Despite the assurances from the Government at the time, people are feeling less safe and seeing less police on their streets. I constantly receive feedback; in my office, through surveys and at community meetings from residents unhappy with the level of policing,” Ms Saffioti said.

“Despite claims to the contrary by the Barnett Government, even the police's own statistics show that crime has increased in Ballajura since the closure of the police station.”

Ms Saffioti also attacked the Police Minister for blaming some of the weekend’s attacks on the shop owners for having a few shopping trolleys out.

“Instead of trying to address the real problems, the Police Minister has attacked the victims of crime, that is unbelievable,” she said.

“It’s time for the Barnett Government to recognise that it made a big mistake in closing the Ballajura police station and address the inadequate police presence in Ballajura.

“Ballajura residents are calling for a better police presence in the community – a permanent police presence.”

Ms Saffioti, together with the community, will lead a campaign to try and secure a better police presence for Ballajura.

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