



# MEDIA STATEMENT

## RITA SAFFIOTI MLA MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



Monday 18 July 2011

### **NORTH EASTERN CORRIDOR MISSES OUT AGAIN**

Local Labor MLA Rita Saffioti said she was bitterly disappointed with the Barnett Government's public transport plan released last Thursday.

"I had high hopes and expectations that the Government would unveil plans of a new mass transit system for the north eastern suburbs," she said.

"The Government has been working on this for about three years, have spent about \$6 million on it, and all that was released last Thursday were some conceptual ideas about where some new routes might go.

"Even then, there is no new light rail or heavy rail services for the north eastern suburbs."

Ms Saffioti said she had the expectation that the plan would address one of two possible links:

- A light rail service along Alexander Drive to service the suburbs north of Reid Highway, such as Ballajura and Landsdale; or
- An Ellenbrook rail line, with the appropriate route, servicing other suburbs along the corridor, including Malaga and Ballajura.

"Unfortunately we got no rail services and from this plan, the north eastern corridor remains the only corridor by 2031 without any type of rail service," Ms Saffioti said.

"The absence of new circle routes, allowing people to access employment centres such as Malaga is a major failing."

Ms Saffioti said the idea of the Mirrabooka light rail service was confusing, because while the map seems to show the service going along Alexander Drive, the report talks about alternative routes.

"There is also no information on the expected travel time from Mirrabooka into the city."

Ms Saffioti together with Shadow Transport Minister Ken Travers have called on the Barnett Government to release its analysis and modelling underpinning the plan, in particular catchment and expected passenger numbers.

"I just cannot believe some of the figures the Minister has been using to justify the plan," she said.

"Once again the Barnett Government has ignored the massive growth that is occurring throughout the north eastern corridor."

Ms Saffioti said she was also sceptical of the lack of funding and construction timeframes in the plan.

"With the record they have, you can't believe the Liberal Party when it comes to public transport," she said.

Ms Saffioti said she plans to make a detailed submission to the draft plan, with submissions due by October 14, 2011. Anyone may like to provide feedback to her is welcome to contact her on 9248 3822 or [westswan@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:westswan@mp.wa.gov.au)

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