



MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



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BARNETT BUDGET DISAPPOINTS FOR NORTH EAST CORRIDOR

The Barnett Government's third Budget delivered today has once again snubbed the north eastern suburbs, Member for West Swan Rita Saffioti said today.

Ms Saffioti said the north eastern corridor was on track for a substantially sharp rise in population with the growth of Ellenbrook and the housing developments along Lord Street, and the current infrastructure simply cannot continue to cope.

Meanwhile families have been hit again with significant increases in water and electricity charges.

Water charges are due to increase 8.5 per cent while electricity charges are due to increase by 5 per cent. All up it's an extra \$205 per household.

This is on top of the extra \$804 in fees and charges from the previous two Budgets. This means in under three years Western Australian families are paying an extra \$1000 in fees and charges due to the Barnett Government.

Net debt is also growing significantly expected to reach \$22.4 billion in 2015. In just one year, 2010-11 to 2011-12, net debt is expected to increase by a massive \$4 billion.

This means future generations will have to pay for the Barnett Government's mismanagement.

Ms Saffioti said this budget was just another disappointment for residents in the north eastern suburbs with no new funding for key priority projects in the area.

Ms Saffioti said a dual carriageway of Reid Highway between Beechboro Road and West Swan Road was still not funded.

Key projects that did not receive funding include:

- Duplication of Reid Highway, between West Swan Road and Beechboro Road, including the construction of a safe intersection at Lord Street;
- Improvement to the Malaga Drive and Reid Highway intersection;
- A dual carriageway for Gngangara Road, including the construction of a safe intersection at Beechboro Road;
- Construction of Henley Brook Avenue as a dual carriageway, between Gngangara Road and Reid Highway; and
- Perth Darwin Highway

Ms Saffioti said construction of Henley Brook Avenue needed to be addressed urgently in order to reduce the unsustainable amount of traffic on Lord Street and West Swan Road.

Other projects:

- A new Auditorium at Ballajura Community College; and
- Dedicated transport plan along Alexander Drive from Gngara Road into the City;

All did not receive funding.

Once again, the Liberal Government has failed to allocate funding for their promised Ellenbrook rail line.

“Mr Barnett needs to recognise the growing needs of the north eastern suburbs,” Ms Saffioti said.

“While Mr Barnett is obsessed with city-centric projects he needs to pay attention to the essential infrastructure required in the north eastern suburbs.”

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