



# MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA  
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



Thursday 19 May 2011

## **SAFFIOTI CONCERNED BY DECISION TO LIFT SWAN VALLEY ROAD TRAIN CURFEW**

West Swan MLA Rita Saffioti today said she was concerned by Transport Minister Troy Buswell's decision to lift the road train curfew through the Swan Valley for a three month trial.

The announcement was made by way of ministerial media statement, released after 4pm, the day before the State Budget.

"The way this announcement was made clearly shows that the Government is anxious about the potential fallout," Ms Saffioti said.

Currently, vehicles longer than 30m are not permitted on Great Northern Highway, between Apple Street and Roe Highway, on weekends and public holidays between 9am and 6pm.

The State Government has overturned this curfew and will allow road trains to mix with tourism and residential traffic on weekends and public holidays.

Ms Saffioti said she was disappointed local winemakers and tourism operators views were not taken into account during the review process.

"I am extremely disappointed the way the Barnett Government has made this decision. Many business and tourism operators are alarmed at this decision," she said.

"This Government has disregarded what the Swan Valley is all about, its treatment of the Valley is totally hypocritical," she said.

"At the same time the Barnett Government is talking about increasing protection for Margaret River to protect its unique viticulture and tourism environment, this Government is making decisions which will impact the tourism and environment of the Swan Valley."

Ms Saffioti said she was surprised from comments made by the Minister for Transport today in Parliament that the Member for Swan Hills supported the lifting of the curfew.

"Given the impact on local residents and businesses I am surprised Mr Alban supports this initiative."

Minister Buswell also stated that this particular area of Great Northern Highway was a dual carriageway.

Ms Saffioti said it was extremely concerning for locals that the Transport Minister was unaware that this major highway was still in fact single lane even after the upgrades.

Ms Saffioti said she would be consulting with local businesses and residents over upcoming months to gauge the impact of this decision on the local community.

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