



# MEDIA STATEMENT

## RITA SAFFIOTI MLA MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



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### **BUSWELL TREATS NORTH-EAST CORRIDOR WITH CONTEMPT YET AGAIN**

Labor Member for West Swan Rita Saffioti has today slammed Transport Minister Troy Buswell for refusing to investigate inaccurate catchment numbers underpinning his Government's Public Transport Plan.

Ms Saffioti said the Barnett Government was snubbing the north eastern corridor and treating the people with contempt, by failing to acknowledge the errors in their plan.

"There are clearly problems with the population forecasts underpinning the Government's transport plan. The Minister claims that by 2031 there would only be 60,000 people living in the catchment for a rail line to Ellenbrook," she said.

"When you look at the official population forecasts from the City of Swan, I believe the catchment could be well over 140,000 residents by 2031, depending on the route.

"I have provided the Minister with the detailed information on projected catchment numbers for an Ellenbrook rail line. Not only does he ignore the facts, he is refusing to have them investigated.

"The Barnett Government broke a key election promise by not building a rail line to Ellenbrook. They are now not telling the truth about the population forecasts driving their transport plan."

Ms Saffioti said the Government was even contradicting themselves on the issue, with both the Planning Minister and Mr Buswell previously talking up the massive population growth anticipated for the area.

Ms Saffioti said the Government's plan nominates Ellenbrook being serviced by a bus rapid transit system. However when asked about the details of this project, Mr Buswell states it's a short to medium term project.

"Mr Buswell has refused to give us any details about his proposed bus rapid transit system," Ms Saffioti said.

"I asked Mr Buswell what the route was going to be, where were the stops going to be, how much it was going to cost, and what was the timeframe for construction.

"He could not provide any detail, even though the Liberals have been in Government for over three years."

Ms Saffioti also highlighted the fact that the Government's plan is supported by the theory that residents in the catchment area will access trains on the Midland line, yet there will be no new trains or increased capacity on the Midland line until 2016.

"The Midland line is expected to be at 93 per cent capacity over the next five years and Mr Buswell's plan is to keep sending people to trains that are already overcrowded," she said.

"The Liberal Party cannot be trusted with Public Transport."

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