



MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



Thursday 24 March 2011

BARNETT GOVERNMENT FAILS ON TRAIL BIKE STRATEGY

Member for West Swan Rita Saffioti today called on the Barnett Government to commit to funding the State Trail Bike Strategy in the 2011-12 Budget.

Ms Saffioti said the Barnett Government was yet to act on any of the recommendations of the 2008 Back on Track document, which outlined a strategy to provide trail bike owners with designated riding areas while protecting the community and the environment.

“Labor funded the development of the strategy in 2007 to tackle problems including illegal or nuisance behaviour by trail bike owners, environmental impacts caused by trail bikes, noise pollution and safety of trail bike riders and pedestrians,” she said.

“It also contained a plan to provide Western Australia’s estimated 50,000 trail bike riders with suitable off-road areas to utilise legally, with minimum impact to surrounding environment and residents.”

Speaking in Parliament yesterday Ms Saffioti highlighted the issues in her electorate, particularly how the continued urbanisation would only exacerbate the issue.

“The mix between the urban fringe and the new residential areas needs to be addressed now, or the problems will only worsen,” she said.

“Constituents constantly raise this issue with me due to the fact that young riders are using footpaths and suburban parklands creating an unsafe environment in a residential area.

“Trail bike users should be able to operate in the parks in a sustainable manner, while the safety and noise concerns of the community are addressed.”

One of the key recommendations of the strategy is to develop parks for young riders.

“This would be a great initiative and will allow young people to ride safely in dedicated parks,” Ms Saffioti said.

The West Swan MLA believes the Government needs to make this an urgent priority.

“Colin Barnett has found \$25 million to fund his new palace on the hill, he could find the money to fund this strategy,” she said.

“The Minister for Sport and Recreation has access to over \$2.8 billion in Royalties to Regions funding to fund this strategy in regional Western Australia.

“Sadly this is just another classic example of how this Government continues to neglect the outer suburbs of Perth.”

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