



MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



Friday 30 September 2011

SAFFIOTI SEEKS STRONGER GUIDELINES FOR POULTRY FARMS

Local Member for West Swan Rita Saffioti has raised concerns in State Parliament about the impact poultry farms are having on local residents.

In Parliament, Ms Saffioti called for stronger planning guidelines for poultry farms, to provide both security and assistance for poultry farm owners and relief for local residents.

“Throughout my electorate and throughout the metropolitan area, there is increasing tension and problems being created as a result of the mix of poultry farms, family homes and tourism ventures,” Ms Saffioti said.

“This is not one persons fault, but more a problem that has emerged due to the increasing urbanisation of what were traditionally rural areas.

“We need Councils and the State Government to be proactive, looking to creating precincts for poultry farms well away from residences. This would provide security for poultry farm owners and for homeowners.”

Ms Saffioti also used Parliament to make the Minister for Planning aware of the current proposal before the City of Swan for the retrospective approval of a number of new structures and an expansion of chicken numbers at a poultry farm in West Swan (now Bennett Springs).

“Here we have a poultry farm owner applying for retrospective approval, both for a number of new structures and for increased chicken numbers from 24,000 to 80,000,” she said.

“Local residents are very angry that this poultry farm seems to have increased in size over recent years, well beyond its previous approvals.

“Many locals have told me that this farm was operating well above its approved license of 24,000 chickens for a number of years, and this proposal before Council seems to have confirmed this.”

In fact, documents obtained through a residents Freedom of Information application show that the City of Swan was aware that this farm had increased its capacity to accommodate over 100,000 chickens at least five years ago.

At a community meeting arranged by Ms Saffioti, residents informed her of their restricted outdoor lifestyle due to flies, odour and dust that permeates the air all year round.

Ms Saffioti said the area on which the chicken farm is situated is currently zoned urban deferred under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. The area is also earmarked for significant residential development under the WAPC’s Swan Urban Growth Corridor.

“It would appear highly irregular to support this poultry farm expansion, while at the same time committing to further urban development in this exact area,” she said.

The application for the proposal is currently open for public comment, closing on 14 October 2011.

Contact: Rita Saffioti 9248 3822