

**JOHN FORREST SECONDARY COLLEGE AND CHISHOLM CATHOLIC COLLEGE —
SCHOOL CROSSINGS**

Grievance

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands) [9.35 am]: Good morning. My grievance is to the Minister for Police. The minister and I have corresponded about this issue but I felt that it was worthwhile to bring it forward again in this forum because no changes have been made and I want to point out a few issues to the minister. The two schools that are directly affected in my grievance are John Forrest Secondary College and Chisholm Catholic College, which is just down the road on the other side of the lights at Broun Avenue. I have visited the principals of both those schools and asked them for their take on the issue. I was quite shocked by the Chisholm College principal's reaction because he is extremely concerned about traffic speeding outside both Chisholm Catholic College and John Forrest. This ties in to the problem that traffic wardens have in not being able to maintain control over the crossings. People simply do not realise, recognise or respond to the signage and LED lights that they see, and the kids on the side of the road. Outside Chisholm Catholic College, there is a particular problem of not enough road space and the kids tend to hover on the kerb. The principal thinks it is just a matter of time before one of them is hit by a passing car.

The two schools affected are John Forrest Secondary College and Chisholm Catholic College. I am very clear that the principals told me that they feel that the lives of students and pedestrians are at risk. The WA Police traffic wardens are also being placed at risk because of vehicles speeding along Broun Avenue in that part of Morley. The community refers to the road as "Suicide Alley" during school times in the morning and in the afternoon because of the speeding traffic. I spoke with a WA Police traffic warden who resigned as a result of motorists speeding through that school zone and not stopping for wardens as they jump or walk out onto the road to put their signs up. Wardens also receive verbal abuse from motorists. A warden also claims that he has had to jump out of the way of speeding motorists on many occasions at that site. Incidents occur in the morning and in the afternoon on a daily basis. I have been out there several times and watched this occurring. The high level of noncompliance along that part of Broun Avenue is alarming and frustrating. Motorists who speed through the school zone are blatantly disregarding both children's safety and the law.

Traffic wardens have reported these incidences to police—directly to the training and operations officer at the Traffic Warden State Management Unit. Wardens have also been told by police to report to the 131 444 number and they have been trying to do that on almost a daily basis. In fact, one traffic warden went down to Bayswater Police Station, stood there and tried to give a report to police about this behaviour. Unfortunately, wardens are told that unless they have evidence—photographic evidence or they can give the numberplates of the speeding cars—the complaints will not be taken seriously. The minister wrote to me and said that I should be doing all these things and getting the community to report. The problem is that when cars speed by, the traffic wardens are often standing there with flags and they do not have time to take a picture of a speeding car or a dangerous driver. Wardens are, therefore, not able to provide the evidence that the minister tells me they need to provide in order to be taken seriously on the 131 444 number. The complaints end up not being logged. The minister is probably quite right in saying that there have been no complaints. I am here to tell her that it is not through want of trying. These people report that they have been trying to make complaints.

From questions asked in the upper house yesterday, I think the minister said that in the last year, traffic cameras were down there on six occasions. I suggest that this is not enough because of the speeding cars that go through there and the number of children who cross those walks. One traffic warden who has been there for six months said that he has seen police there on two separate occasions. I am not sure when the six instances of police attendance that the minister referred to were recorded, but the warden said he has seen police there on only two occasions. I have asked the minister questions about speed camera locations and how many motorists have clocked speeds in excess of 40 kilometres an hour in that zone. I am interested to know how the minister can conclude that motorists are observing the speed limit along Broun Avenue because I have certainly seen them speeding there and so have the traffic wardens, the kids and the principals.

We have two problems. The first is the need for better speed regulation along that section with two major high schools and thousands of kids walking over the road every day at that intersection. The second is the problem of the reporting line, which does not accept the reports from my traffic wardens. If they are not even issued with a report number, then the minister can certainly turn around and say, "I don't know about the problem because I haven't received any complaints." I make it very clear to the minister that I know attempts have been made to have these complaints recorded. In fact, I have said face to face with the traffic wardens, "If you do not get a logged-in number for this complaint, I cannot follow it up." They have been down to the local police station and tried to get that but were told that they cannot have a job number or whatever. What does the minister suggest our traffic wardens do? Stand out there with a pen and paper and record specific incidents and take photographs of speeding cars and numberplates? On 6PR this week she said how concerned she is about

motorists not adhering to the road rules at a primary school in High Wycombe and outlined how she went into action and introduced one-strike anti-hoon laws. I wonder how many complaints the local Liberal member of Parliament in that electorate made before they got the minister to listen to their concerns. I would hate to think that the minister would make a political issue or statement about lives that are in danger. I look forward to the minister's response.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Road Safety) [9.42 am]: First of all, it is somewhat offensive to hear the member for Maylands say that I respond to road safety issues only from a political perspective. I have a deep commitment to improving road safety in Western Australia and I respond to everybody who raises an issue with me. I think the member will acknowledge that I have responded to all the letters that she has sent to me about road safety matters in her electorate. I hasten to add that every person in this house who writes to me gets a detailed response and action from police and often the Road Safety Commission as an outcome.

To be fair, I am very familiar with this particular road. In fact, I own a business around the corner and I have driven along this patch many times. Police have targeted Broun Avenue for deployment through both the traffic enforcement group and the speed camera section—the infringement management and operations group. We have received no complaints through the state traffic intelligence, planning and coordination unit or 131 444 for speeding offences during school zone operating hours. I put it to the member that particularly during the morning peak period, the traffic there is quite congested and slow. The location has been included for targeted patrols in response to my office contacting police after the member's letter came through. In 2016 there have been six deployments in the school zone and it has been policed by officers of the traffic enforcement group on 2 February and 26 May. A total of 13 on-the-spot infringements were issued during those two deployments. It is not possible to determine whether the local policing and response teams have also been enforcing that area because we do not require them to record those hours, but it is a high-contact area and the zone is normally complied with quite well.

There are two crossings—one near McGregor Street, Embleton, servicing John Forrest Secondary College, and the other near Lawrence Street, Bedford, servicing Chisholm Catholic College. Both crossings are dual-control crossings. Traffic wardens are on each side of the road and they stop the traffic in both directions when students cross. There have been no complaints from any of the wardens. I know the member said that they say they cannot issue a complaint, but the Traffic Warden State Management Unit liaises routinely with traffic wardens on safety issues. We have an occupational health and safety responsibility towards our wardens and take any complaint about warden safety seriously. I am dealing with an issue in the City of Stirling that involves dangerous kerbing and taking action with the local government to improve the safety there for those traffic wardens. Interestingly, the wardens at Chisholm Catholic College, which is where the member seems to be getting her high level of complaints from, have been there for over five years. They have been absent for only a small number of times due to illness. John Forrest Secondary College has had long-term wardens who have been there for over five years.

Ms L.L. Baker: Minister, I am sorry but that is not the correct information. I know one of the traffic wardens and he was in Midland until recently. He moved down six months ago because they could not —

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I have not finished, member.

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Maylands!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: There are two wardens at each crossing. The wardens at Chisholm Catholic College have been there for over five years. One of the wardens outside John Forrest has been there for over five years and a female warden there retired earlier this year due to failing health not associated with work. To say that the wardens are running a mile and refuse to operate at those particular crossings because of the risk is absolutely incorrect. They have been there for over five years and they have not lodged complaints. There have been no long-term warden absences. Every month I get a report about those crossings.

Ms L.L. Baker: What the minister has been told is not right. I am happy to talk to the minister more about this but it is not true.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Maylands!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We have a difference of opinion because that is the information that I have been provided by the unit that employs and manages the traffic wardens. That unit logs absences, illness and all those issues because if a crossing is unmanned, police officers or a casual warden need to be deployed to replace them, particularly on busy roads like these that have a high priority. We do not have a series of issues in trying to man those crossings. The wardens have been turning up for work. There have been very few absences due to illness

and, in fact, they are long-term wardens. They are part of the community and they have been there for a long time. There are traffic control lights before and after the zone. There is a 40-kilometre-an-hour flashing light there; I think it was one of the first ones put in, which is contrary to the accusation at the start of the member's grievance that these matters are dealt with in response to political pressure. This was viewed as one of those areas that required better visibility because of the high number of students crossing the road. The stretch between the two schools is about one and a half kilometres.

We will continue to monitor the issue. If the community says that there is a high level of noncompliance with the speed limit, I implore the member to contact the local government. Local government can put traffic counters on the road to measure the volume and speed of traffic. If the member asks the local government to put counters in the school zone, we will see whether there is a high level of noncompliance. On receiving that information, we can work with local government to put a higher level of traffic and speed enforcement focus on those areas. The information I have is that the traffic wardens have not suggested that this is a suicide alley by any means and we do not have a high level of complaints.