

## **HILLARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL — PARKING AND TRAFFIC**

### *Grievance*

**MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys)** [9.42 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Tourism in his capacity as representing the Minister for Education and Training in the other place. It is about the very significant traffic and parking problems experienced by the school community at Hillarys Primary School and unfortunately also the neighbours around that school who have to endure the fallout from those problems.

I will provide a bit of context in history. The school was opened in the early 1970s and was meant to be a temporary school, with the expectation that at some point a more permanent school would be built elsewhere. Perhaps 45 or so years ago the location may have been appropriate, but today it is really in a landlocked parcel surrounded by residential houses. The main street it is located on, Lymburner Drive, is a narrow, very small residential neighbourhood street. The school can be accessed from various parts. Most people access it from Waterford Drive, which is more of a medium-sized road, and then into Oliver Street.

In the mornings and afternoons this area is nothing short of an absolute tragedy waiting to happen. I have been there on a number of occasions at school pick-up and drop-off times and have seen the risks involved for young children and their families as they try to cross the busy Waterford Drive and as parents try to find parking. The residents who live in that area have cars parking in their driveways and on their lawns, sometimes blocking in their cars because someone has parked their car there to pick up their child. A lot of people walk and cycle to school but, as we know in a suburb as large as Hillarys with a catchment area as large as it is, many people have to drive, either because the school is too far to walk to or because they have other commitments and they need to get one kid to one school, one kid to another school and perhaps get to work or to another commitment as well, so they need flexibility. The school has grown and grown. It now has over 600 students. That is a real testament to the principal, the staff and the entire school community, but as the school grows, the pressure on the surrounding area, the road network, the neighbours and the school community itself is growing to manage the traffic problems.

I am indebted to a parent at the school, Stephen Kretschmer, who saw the problem and used his professional capacity and capabilities to put together a plan to increase the number of parking bays at the school in what he suggests is a relatively low-cost solution. That will not solve the issue for the adjoining streets, but it will definitely get the cars off the streets when they are parked, and it will alleviate the problems for neighbours as well as young children having to cross a very busy road. I met with Stephen Kretschmer and the school principal, Ron Chesny. The proposal is very detailed. It was forwarded to the City of Joondalup in the first instance because it has control of streets such as Waterford Drive and Oliver Street. In conjunction with Mr Kretschmer and the principal I also wrote to the Minister for Education and Training. I commend the minister in this instance; her response has been really good. Initially the minister wrote back and said —

The Department of Education has conducted an audit of parking bays provided at Hillarys Primary School and advised that there is a shortfall, particularly in the number of on-street embayments. A consultant has been engaged to provide a concept design for additional parking along the southern boundary of the school site.

That is the area Mr Kretschmer had identified as a potential parking area, particularly because it is located near the early childhood classrooms and is separate from the rest of the school. The minister continued —

The design will determine a construction cost, which will allow the project to be considered when formulating the 2018–19 Traffic Management Program.

Subsequent correspondence between my office and the minister's office reveals that the concept design is likely to be completed in term 2, 2018. That is right now, so it is going to be ready. I commend the Department of Education and the Minister for Education and Training for progressing that. The minister's office indicated that following the announcement of the 2018–19 state government budget, the Department of Education will review all traffic and parking priorities and a decision will be made as to whether this project will be included in the 2018–19 traffic management program. Since the budget came down last week, it is obviously an opportune time to raise this issue. It is an important issue for my local constituents. It is an important issue for the school, which has to deal with complaints from neighbours and delays in getting children to school in the morning. I know this happens across Perth. This is not unique, but it is in my community and it is, as I said, an extraordinarily dangerous area in the mornings and afternoons when people are dropping off and picking up their children from school. Anything we can do to alleviate the pressure would be very welcomed by the community and would reduce those risks and dangers that have been clearly identified.

I thank the Minister for Education and Training and her office for the work they have done so far in being so cooperative, but now is the time when the rubber hits the road. The budget has been announced. There are many priorities. What I am seeking from the minister, through the Minister for Tourism in this place, is that the Hillarys Primary School is not forgotten as it has been forgotten too many times in the past, especially in the period I mentioned earlier when the land for the permanent school was sold off, many years ago. Let us not forget the

people of Hillarys Primary School and the neighbours around that area. Let us fix the problem before it results in something that we do not want to see. I thank the minister for taking my grievance.

**MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Tourism)** [9.49 am]: I thank the member for Hillarys for this grievance and for his ongoing support of schools in his electorate. I am responding, as the member understands, on behalf of the Minister for Education and Training, so I hope that the member will extend some degree of latitude to me as I will probably read most of the response to ensure that the member gets the words from the minister herself. I understand that the member, as he indicated, has also written to the minister about parking at Hillarys Primary School. Parking and associated traffic issues are a concern at many schools, particularly when multiple schools are in close proximity. There is no single approach to addressing parking and traffic issues around schools. The Department of Education works closely with local councils, Main Roads Western Australia, the Western Australia Police Force, the Department of Transport, the Department of Finance and its Building Management and Works, the Department of Sport and Recreation and school communities to improve safety. It is effectively a collaborative effort. All newly constructed schools are required to comply with Department of Education primary and secondary school design guides. The parking numbers in the design guides are determined with the agreement of the Western Australian Local Government Association. Each new school is provided with a certain number of onsite and street embayments in line with those design briefs and based on student numbers. For example, a primary school with up to 430 students should have 108 bays. These briefs also include areas set aside for student bicycle parking. Of course, older schools—such as Hillarys Primary School—affected by population growth and site restrictions require a collaborative approach to managing traffic congestion and parking issues. Schools are encouraged to participate in the Department of Transport’s and Department of Sport and Recreation’s Your Move program—formerly called TravelSmart. This program promotes behaviour change community-wide as part of school culture, encouraging walking and cycling to school in a safe environment. Kiss ‘n’ Ride drop-off facilities are popular at many schools and require the expertise and approval of local councils and/or Main Roads in their design and construction to manage efficient flow of traffic around the school. Kiss ‘n’ Ride drop-off parking located in the road reserve, such as at Hillarys Primary School, where it is contiguous with the school site, is usually jointly funded by the Department of Education and the local council. Most people would agree it is unfeasible to expect parking to be available for every person all the time. Street parking around the perimeter of schools is often utilised by parents and caregivers. An important step schools and councils can take is to check that street signage is adequate and if further signage around school zones, speed limits and parking restrictions is necessary, schools should work with the local government authority to improve these. This signage is normally funded by the local government authority. School principals are encouraged to raise their concerns with the Department of Education’s capital works and maintenance business area. An officer from the department will be able to undertake an audit and feasibility report on parking bays to see if they meet prescribed parking requirements. Any upgrade works identified can then be considered against other competing school priorities throughout the state.

Hillarys Primary School was established in 1973. Current enrolments of students from kindergarten to year 6 are 583. Since 2015, there has been an increase of 46 students from preprimary to year 6. The department has worked with the City of Joondalup to address parking and traffic issues at Hillarys Primary School. In June 2013, the department and the City of Joondalup shared the construction costs of 17 additional parking embayments on Lymburner Drive on the south side of Hillarys Primary School. On 15 February 2018, a Hillarys Primary School parent emailed the department outlining concerns about parking issues at the school. I imagine that person may have been the member’s constituent. He provided a detailed report, which identified an area on the south of the school site where additional parking could be provided. On 21 February 2018, an officer from the department visited the school to discuss the parking situation with the principal and an audit of available parking bays was undertaken. As mentioned earlier, the standard primary school brief provides guidelines for parking both onsite and offsite in the streets surrounding a school. The audit found that although the 67 onsite bays meet the primary school brief number, which is 61 for a school the size of Hillarys Primary School, there was a significant shortfall of 39 parking embayments on adjacent streets. Opportunities for additional on-road embayments in the surrounding road network have been exhausted. In April 2018, a feasibility study was carried out, which identified the location for approximately 40 additional parking bays along the southern boundary of the school site. The cost of the additional parking has been estimated at \$434 000. This is approximately double the normal cost per parking bay due to the difficulties in developing the steeply sloping site. A copy of the design concept was provided to the school principal on 9 May 2018 and he was advised that the project would now be considered when formulating the department’s 2018–19 traffic management program. The department allocates funding in its recurrent budget to address traffic issues at all schools through the traffic management program. Traffic management priorities are currently being assessed at schools across the state and it is expected to be finalised by the end of June 2018. Traffic issues at Hillarys Primary School will be assessed and prioritised in this process.