

SOUTH COOGEE PRIMARY SCHOOL — CROSSWALK ATTENDANT

Grievance

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn) [9.46 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Police. I would like to acknowledge the mums and the kids from South Coogee Primary School who are up in the gallery.

Mr P.T. Miles: You have been very patient.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I must congratulate the kids on being very quiet and well behaved while we have been waiting, through the reading of all those ministerial statements, member for Wanneroo, for this grievance to go ahead. Just to put the location in the mind's eye of the minister, South Coogee Primary School has been in its current location for the last 12 years since it was moved from its older location. It is situated just off Beeliar Drive where Beeliar Drive meets Stock Road—it is not far from the intersection between Stock Road and Beeliar Drive. It is in a very new housing development area that is growing all the time. As I said, the school has been there for 12 years. People can access the school by driving down Beeliar Drive from either direction. They then hit a roundabout and go around what is now a commercial shopping centre and into Ivankovich Avenue, which is where the school is. Until four years ago, the school was relatively isolated. It had a fair amount of bush and scrub around it and parking for dropping off students was not a problem. However, in the last four years the area directly opposite the school between the school and Beeliar Drive has been turned into a commercial shopping centre with a Shell service station, a McDonald's, a Coles supermarket and a series of other shops. That shopping centre, along with the continued rapid growth of the suburbs of Beeliar and Munster, has attracted more and more cars into the area, particularly accessing the shopping centre via Ivankovich Avenue. The problem that has arisen during the growth of the shopping centre is that the City of Cockburn has now made the Ivankovich Avenue area opposite the school a no-parking zone. There is no Kiss 'n' Ride drop-off area and now both sides of the road are no-parking zones, so the only way parents can get their children to school is to actually park in the shopping centre car park itself. It is not a problem in the mornings because the shopping centre is not open at that time, and the people from the shopping centre do not mind if people park there to drop off their kids.

People have to come into the shopping centre, and then they have to walk across Ivankovich Avenue to drop the kids off. There are 470 students at the school, and that number is growing all the time. But at the same time as they are trying to get across Ivankovich Avenue, more cars are entering it. The cars go up to the top, turn around and come back again. Cars are all over the place, trying to get into and past the shopping centre. That is in the morning; in the afternoon it is worse because the shopping centre is open and people are trying to get their shopping done in the afternoon. It is chaos. The request for a school crosswalk attendant made by the parents and citizens association to the City of Cockburn was rejected. Why? I do not know, given the fact that the City of Cockburn applied the parking constraints right outside the school.

I appeal to the minister today to use her powers over school crosswalk attendants and to liaise with the City of Cockburn to have a school crosswalk attendant approved for that school. As the minister knows, a price cannot be put on the life of a child. What people have been faced with down there has gradually got worse and worse. It will become even more constrained, because right opposite where the shopping centre has been built, a series of new apartments and a pub will be built. This is just off Beeliar Drive, and the whole area will be completely congested, particularly in the mornings and afternoons, which is exactly the same time as parents are trying to get their kids to school. The minister can understand the constraints that small area is under at the moment, and the parents and P&C, through me, are appealing for the minister's help in gaining a crosswalk attendant to make it safe for those parents to take their children to school.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police) [9.51 am]: I thank the member for Cockburn for this grievance, and acknowledge the parents from the school and their very, very well-behaved children in the gallery—well done, they are a credit to you!

I thank the member for Cockburn for raising this grievance with me. The advice I have is that South Coogee Primary School applied for a type A crossing in September 2014. Our WA Police children's crossing unit did an assessment of that area between 15 September and 6 November 2014. The surveys showed that there were definitely sufficient pedestrian numbers, but that there were low traffic volumes at that time on Ivankovich Avenue, Beeliar. When the Children's Crossing and Road Safety Committee assesses these applications, it looks at not only the number of pedestrians, but also the number of vehicles and uses the vehicle-pedestrian conflict to determine whether a site is eligible for a crossing. We also, though, rely on the endorsement of the local government for a school crossing, so I find it somewhat curious that the City of Cockburn is not in favour of a crossing, given the circumstances the member has just described.

Mr F.M. Logan: Yes, I agree.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am certainly happy to write to the City of Cockburn to request that it puts a better traffic management plan in place, and also reconsider its position.

The application was considered by the Children's Crossing and Road Safety Committee on 11 November, and a type A crossing was declined at that point in time because there were not enough vehicles to meet the criteria. The committee noted that because of the high pedestrian numbers, it appeared suitable for a type B crossing. For a type B crossing, we rely on the school—the applicant—to provide volunteer guards or arrange to employ a traffic warden for a period. A number of schools run with a type B crossing for a period, keep better track of the pedestrian and vehicle numbers, and then reapply to have that crossing upgraded to a type A crossing, through which they get more support from the state government through that Children's Crossing and Road Safety Committee.

In December 2014, South Coogee Primary School was encouraged to submit an application for a type B crossing because that would have been authorised; however, I reiterate that we need the cooperation and endorsement of the City of Cockburn for that application. I note that on Tuesday the member for Cockburn tabled a petition with 267 signatures in the house, so the community is presenting a very strong case and showing very strong support for a children's crossing at that site.

I am not sure whether there is a flashing 40-kilometre-an-hour sign at the school.

Mr F.M. Logan: No, there's not.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I can certainly work with the Minister for Transport to find out when it is likely that the 40-kilometre-an-hour flashing signs will be installed at that location. We have made a commitment of \$2.8 million over this financial year to have those signs installed outside 73 schools. By the end of 2017, we will have spent \$36 million on making sure that all our 1 071 schools across the state will have one of those flashing 40-kilometre-an-hour zone signs in place. It sounds as though Ivankovich Avenue is a prime candidate for one of those signs because it is a vicinity in which traffic needs to be slowed.

I encourage the member for Cockburn to continue to work with the school P&C and the City of Cockburn. I think the next hurdle in this is really to get the City of Cockburn over the line.

Mr F.M. Logan: Yes.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member needs to make sure that the city will endorse a children's crossing at that site.

Mr F.M. Logan: Would the minister consider having the committee reconsider the type A crossing if the City of Cockburn was to support that?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Yes, absolutely. I do not interfere in the committee process, because it has been working very effectively for a long time and has a very good system in place. I do not interfere with the work of the committee, but I strongly encourage the member, if he can get the City of Cockburn across the line, to resubmit that application. We can certainly work from our end to look at prioritising one of the 40-kilometre-an-hour signs for that site. That will assist with road safety, anyway, in the vicinity of the school. It sounds as though the school needs to work with the City of Cockburn on finding a Kiss 'n' Ride drop-off area solution for that site as well.

Mr F.M. Logan: Yes, it does.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is very unfortunate that the shopping centre was approved to be so closely located to the school without any provision for the pre-existing school.

Mr F.M. Logan: That's right; with no parking right outside a school. It is just crazy.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: That is right. Local planning schemes are supposed to take all those sorts of issues into consideration. It sounds as though that has not been considered in this case.

I strongly encourage the member to continue to work with the City of Cockburn and the P&C. As I said, we will have a look at when we can get 40-kilometre-an-hour flashing signs in place, and certainly I am happy to write to the City of Cockburn and ask it to work with the P&C and the member for Cockburn to get a road safety solution in place for the students of that school. It just is not acceptable to have those sorts of conflicts. I thank the member for Cockburn for raising the grievance with me, and I thank the members of the school community for travelling all the way up from Cockburn to be in Parliament today. I wish everyone luck, and I will certainly assist in trying to improve road safety outcomes for the children of that primary school.