

THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE

SAFETY MATTERS FOR EVERYONE

My Ref: Petition No.176

24 November 2020

Hon Matthew Swinbourn
MLC Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Dear Hon Matthew Swinbourn,

Petition No. 176 – Railway Junction on Rockingham Road, Spearwood

Firstly, thank you for acknowledging my petition lodged on the 12th day of November 2020 by Hon Pierre Yang MLC. I am providing the following submission to assist the committee as requested.

I am a member of the Spearwood Progress Association and this has been an ongoing issue, which has been neglected and left dilapidated for at least the last two decades.

As previously noted in the petition there is a dual freight line track that currently crosses a busy major through road, on Rockingham Road in Spearwood. Over the last 100 years there have been NO safety barriers, at either of the four pedestrian accessible entry points of the tracks. This has resulted in several deaths, accidents, and near misses.

The Spearwood Progress Association, collective members and ever-growing community, is perturbed that with pending developments, and the proposal of 126 new residences already in the planning stages, on a 5-acre block directly adjacent to the site will increase the perpetuating high risk to the public. This teamed alongside the State Government initiative Directions 20/31 Urban Infill Program will see the population soar, and density of older suburbs becoming a priority. There is a primary school less than 600 meters from this point which would also see an increase of families using this area as we strive for a more green, environmentally friendly suburb. There are two bus stops either side of these tracks which residents regularly use and are reliant on.

Then there is the 65-year-old pedestrian who tripped and fell, and unfortunately lost his life here last year. His family reached out to the media and exposed traumatic facts about this incident, where he was seen struggling to his feet in vain hopes of survival. These freight trains often have 40/50 carriages attached at one time, with the weight being inconceivable. The community truly believes if there had been safety measures in place and better lighting that this gentleman, would be celebrating Christmas with his family this year. We struggle as a close-knit community of new and long-term residents that this incident alone did not make Authorities take note on the unequivocal need for increased safety measures at this specific location.

Census statistics from 2016 showed the following populations: **Spearwood 10,034**, Coogee 4,597, South Lake 5,866, Wattleup 743, Bibra Lake 5,877 What really stands out is that Spearwood has a

higher population and yet has been completely forgotten on the spectrum of having any fencing or safety barriers protecting its residents.

The Public Transport authority has initiated the Project Level Crossing Upgrade Program to ensure, all pedestrian level crossings are fully compliant with current disability and DDA standards across the Transperth network. It is ambiguous in its definition of distinguishing between freight and public transport lines.

We are proposing that the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs take a stand for the community of Spearwood. We would like to see the appropriate safety measures put in place so that no more fatalities occur at this site.

I have liaised with engineering & works consultants at the City of Cockburn who have advised, that over the last decade this area has seen a dramatic increase in vehicular and pedestrian activity.

There has been extreme frustration from the community of Spearwood that they are continuously overlooked, forgotten to the point where we have collectively submitted a petition to Parliament in order to have anything done. The community is outraged that it has gotten to this point.

I look forward to personally presenting additional information and inviting the community members to attend and have their say in this enquiry.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Monique Gray

Member of the Spearwood Progress Association

ROCKINGHAM ROAD JUNCTION NOW



WHAT WE DESERVE

