



**Hon Sue Ellery MLC
Minister for Education and Training
Leader of the Legislative Council**

Your ref: Petition No. 117
Our Ref: 61-17110

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

Email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Swinbourn

Thank you for your letter dated 27 June 2019 regarding Petition No.117 – Parking Congestion at Local Schools.

Public schools are conveniently located to encourage students to walk or ride. Despite this, cars remain a popular mode of transport and can cause congestion during school peak periods. The Department of Education recognises that it is difficult to change culture and behaviour around transport, especially in large existing schools.

The Department is working closely with the Departments of Transport, Planning and Finance – Building Management and Works, to address congestion and parking issues around schools. One approach is encouraging schools to participate in the Your Move Program. This program promotes behaviour change as part of the school culture by encouraging walking and cycling to schools in a safe environment. Schools are able to earn points that can be converted to vouchers and merchandise associated with healthy activities. Future proposals may involve schools being able to leverage funding for projects such as secure scooter parking racks or shade structures over bicycle racks.

The Department allocates funds each year to a traffic management program. Audits and feasibility reports are undertaken at schools where the need for additional parking is identified. Priorities for funding are determined by criteria such as shortfall of bays, parking required for development approvals for new buildings and funding contribution from local government authorities.

Currently, the Department is working through a schedule of high-priority schools that require attention to traffic management and parking issues.

In terms of planning for new schools, the Department has advised that all new schools are provided with sufficient staff, visitor and parent parking, and drop-off/pick-up areas, as required in the Department's Primary School Brief and Secondary Schools Design Guide. The car park component of both the Primary School Brief and Secondary Schools Design Guide has been determined in agreement with the Western Australian Local Government Association. The parking caters for the permanent enrolment capacity, as well as an additional number of transportable classrooms. There are also areas set aside for student bicycle parking. Dedicated parking is not provided for students. The majority of secondary schools discourage students driving to school due to increased congestion and parking issues. This strategy is supported by the Department.

In addition to onsite car parking, the Western Australian Planning Commission's Development Control Policy 2.4 – School sites and Liveable Neighbourhoods require local roads surrounding school sites to cater for on-street embayment parking bays for the purpose of student drop-off/pick-up. Importantly, these roads are to be designed to create a safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrian-prioritised street environment.

Most schools are proactive in addressing the safe movement of traffic around their site and engage with the local authority to manage compliance with local traffic and parking by-laws. Schools would welcome involvement in a cooperative approach to amending parking restrictions.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



SUE ELLERY MLC
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

11 JUL 2019