



Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands

Your ref: A696706
Our ref: 72-11124/4

Hon M Swinbourn MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
lcco@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Swinbourn

PETITION NO 52 - MURDOCH DRIVE CONNECTION PROJECT

Thank you for your letter dated 28 June 2018 requesting further information pertaining to Petition 52, particularly regarding claims made by local government authorities regarding the extent of Main Roads' community engagement program on the Murdoch Drive Connection project.

As outlined in my previous response, Main Roads undertook extensive engagement on the original concept design for the project. Activity included a public information session attended by over 400 local residents, the Mayors of Cockburn and Melville and a number of other City of Cockburn and Melville councillors. The event was publicised via newspaper advertisements and social media.

During this initial round of engagement, numerous ratepayers and amenity groups, such as the Bibra Lake Residents Association and Save Beeliar Wetlands, expressed concern at a proposal for full connectivity between the Murdoch Drive Connection and Bibra Drive. It was argued that additional access would lead to unsustainable increases in traffic on Farrington Road, Hope Road and Bibra Drive itself. These concerns were subsequently validated by strategic-level traffic modelling.

As a result, I requested Main Roads to work with both the Cities of Cockburn and Melville over a three-month period to revise the concept design to ensure the project resulted in an equitable redistribution of traffic around the local road network, while ensuring the core objectives of the project – two way connectivity between the Murdoch Activity Centre, Roe Highway and Kwinana Freeway, were not compromised.

In January 2018, I announced a final concept design that achieved this objective. This was followed by extensive communication with local residents. More than 1,000 local residents were engaged through two shopping centre display sessions and a further information day in February and March 2018 respectively. In addition, a further information evening with the residents of Murdoch Chase was held in May 2018 to address specific concerns pertaining to access changes. This session was also attended by the City of Cockburn and the Member for Willagee, Hon Peter Tinley, MLA.

While feedback from these sessions indicates that some local stakeholders remain dissatisfied with the design, I believe concerns have been mitigated as far as practicably possible and no further modifications are required.

Main Roads and its Alliance partners will continue to liaise closely with the community throughout the construction period to minimise impacts to local residents.

Thank you for taking the time to write regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

- 2 AUG 2018