

Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
GPO Box A11  
PERTH WA 6837

Dear Chair

I am writing in support of a Committee investigation in to the issue of the Petition I tabled in Parliament, 13 August, 2015 and named Bus Route 15 of which 179 signatures where attached.

I believe that there has been quite a lot of research performed by the principal petitioner Tad Krysiak as the head of the action group Seniors And Disabled Bus Action Group (SANDBAG) in relation to this issue and would like to lend my support to his submission.

1. The Public Transport Authority, (PTA), changed the route of Bus number 15 due to a lower patronage of that particular service, but alas this did not cover the whole route just areas of it. This having been done so without any form of proper consultation, giving only one week for respondents to reply, which of course when dealing with an older generation or those that may be disabled is definitely not a long enough time. Whilst the PTA may feel that it has fulfilled its obligations towards the public by notification, I believe this time it may not be the case.
  2. This is a long-standing bus route that the PTA are making changes to and for some, again mentioning the elderly or the disabled, the familiarity of the route is how they plan their days, weeks or even years. The abrupt change of this familiarity can cause untold anxiety, for those in our community that have come to rely on the constant service that had been offered by the PTA with the number 15 bus Route.
  3. Another element of the community that may be affected by the changes made to this bus route are children and parents. Again the familiarity of a long running service does make it safer, giving parent's more peace of mind in allowing their children the freedom to use this service to get home from school or other outside of the home activities.
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4. The alternative bus route which has been initiated by the PTA the number 14 service, is used by a fair amount of patrons, upwards of 500 I believe, due to the large number of people the 14 services, this may make it more difficult for the elderly, disabled or school children who generally use the 15 service instead.

I thank you for taking the time to consider my submission in support of the submission from the Principal Petitioner, Tad Krysiak and I hope that the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs look kindly upon taking up this issue for investigation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Pritchard', with a stylized flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Hon. Martin Pritchard MLC  
Member for North Metropolitan Region

23 September 2015