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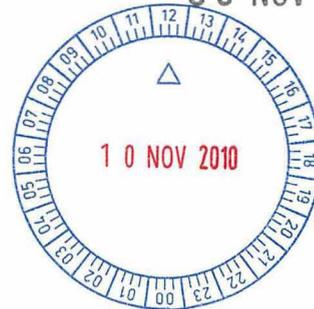
Minister for Transport; Disability Services

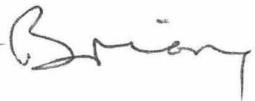
Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC

05 NOV 2010

Your Reference: 29-15821

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Mr Ellis 

Thank you for your letter of 14 October 2010 in response to my letter of 29 September 2010 regarding bus services in the Northern suburbs.

The suburbs of Ashby, Tapping, Sinagra, Carramar and Banksia Grove, are considered new, fast growing and, in a Metropolitan context, rate along with other suburbs such as Harrisdale, Piara Waters, Baldivis, Aveley, Butler, Jindalee and Alkimos. All of these suburbs have an identified need for bus service improvements and are included in Transperth's Service Development Plan. Funding for these initiatives will form part of the budget considerations but until funding is approved, no further comment is possible as to likely implementation dates.

The long term public transport strategy i.e. the 20 year plan for Perth's public transport network, is now being completed by The Department of Transport under the guidance of an independent panel of experts. This report is close to completion and will shortly be presented to Government for consideration. Upon release, I will forward a copy to the committee.

Funding to improve service levels on the Transperth network is ongoing. Earlier this year the Government announced the extension of the Joondalup Railway line to the fast developing area of Butler. Planning and construction has commenced on this \$240 million project, which will include improved feeder bus services to the railway. In addition Transperth has made major improvements to Morley and Ellenbrook bus services that commenced on 17 October 2010.

Thank you for taking the time to raise this matter.

Yours sincerely

Simon O'Brien, MLC
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT