

Hon Colin Holt MLC

Member for South West Region

Our Ref:

8th March, 2019

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Committee Office
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Chair

PETITION NO. 105 – ALTERNATIVE BUNBURY OUTER RING ROAD (BORR)

The Bunbury Outer Ring Road Project represents a significant investment into the infrastructure in the South West.

Main Roads WA has described the project as a bypass to provide the following objectives and benefits:

- Reduce local congestion through increasing efficiency for freight vehicles and regional traffic
- Improve long term access to the Bunbury Port
- Support socio-economic growth and facilitate integrated development in greater Bunbury and the South West region
- Enhance amenity on local roads by reducing freight and regional traffic
- Create a safer road system for our community

The project has been flagged for many years and early planning identified and reserved land to indicate the preferred route. The latest planning for the development of the BORR came into sharp focus since the announcement by the State Government that the Federal Government has committed \$560m to the project. This recent planning (which is ongoing) has identified a number of changes to the previously identified route including the 'Northern' route where it deviates from Forrest Highway and the 'Southern' route where it impacts communities and landholders within the Shire of Capel.

The changes to the route has broadened the impact of the BORR and many questions are being asked by the community and those impacted. Many feel they are not getting answers to these questions.

Interchange designs, which have only recently been shown to the community and stakeholders, have had mixed acceptance among stakeholders including the City of Bunbury who describe a major interchange on the Northern part of the BORR as completely unacceptable.

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There is also a large amount of angst within the community in regards to the consultation process. There is concern that it is not a truly consultative process but more a 'tick the box' exercise.

The community is frustrated with the process and have repeatedly asked the Minister for Transport to take a more personal interest in the planning for this project, to meet with them and to hear their concerns first hand. That has not occurred.

This petition has been driven by local, concerned residents and stakeholders who believe the potential new Southern 'green' route is not only unnecessary but will have unacceptable environmental, agricultural and community impacts (the 'green' route is so described due to MRDWA releasing maps with this new route highlighted in green). I am sure the principal petitioner will articulate their particular concerns in their submission to the committee.

This project that will cost in excess of \$500,000,000 (and probably closer to \$700,000,000) is too large and important to have these concerns unaddressed.

I urge the Committee to investigate these matters fully.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', with a large loop extending to the left.

Hon Colin Holt MLC
MEMBER FOR SOUTH WEST REGION