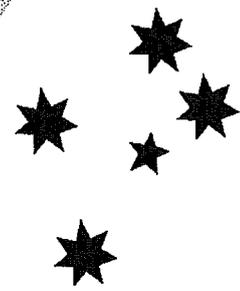JOHN QUIGLEY LLB JP MLA
MEMBER FOR BUTLER

14 March 2014

The Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH   WA   6000

Dear Sir

PETITION NO. 31 – TRAFFIC CRASH BARRIERS, MERRIWA

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 March 2014 seeking submissions in relation to Petition number 31 – traffic crash barriers, Merriwa.

Please note the issues have not been taken to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman).

They have been raised with the City of Wanneroo who has indicated they are not willing to install traffic crash barriers.

I am advised that the City of Wanneroo is in receipt of a Crash Location Report ("CLR") commissioned by Main Roads WA and have requested from the City a copy of the report in order to ascertain its findings, however, the City has advised that it has not yet received a copy of a CLR from Main Roads.

Stacy and Justin Dunbar suffered the most devastating loss a parent can suffer.

After putting their son Nate to bed on 24 January 2013 he was killed by a drunk driver who lost control of her vehicle, careened into the back of the Dunbars' house and killed Nate.

The Dunbars' home backs on to Hester Avenue which is a street with a very high volume of traffic and a speed limit of 70 kms per hour.

The population and increase in road users in the electorate of Butler is expanding at a faster rate than any other electorate in Western Australia.

There are a number of homes which back on to Hester Avenue between Marmion Avenue and Wanneroo Road.

I am aware that the tragic incident which killed Nate is not the only incident of a driver losing control of a vehicle and careening into the back yard of a home on Hester Avenue, on 8 December 2013, only metres away from the Dunbars' home, this happened to another family on the other side of Hester Avenue.

There is overwhelming anecdotal evidence that on a nightly basis motorists are driving at speed along Hester Avenue and putting at risk residents of adjoining houses.

There are numerous and regular accidents on Hester Avenue.

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Given the increase of traffic on Hester Avenue, the incidents of speeding and the inexplicable proportion of those drivers who have consumed alcohol, there continues to be a very potent risk to those residents living adjacent to Hester Avenue, more so than those living adjacent to Marmion Avenue, as motorists speed down the hill on Hester Avenue.

Given the tragedy that occurred at the Dunbar's home on 24 January 2013 when the late Nate Dunbar was killed in his bed when a drunken driver lost control of her vehicle and crashed into the Dunbars house, and due to the fact that the Dunbars do not have the financial resources to relocate, it seems inhumane to refuse to erect crash barriers particularly in view of the fact that the Dunbars have had a new baby girl, (Eve), who is only one month old and living in the same bedroom in which Nate was so tragically killed.

On behalf of the Dunbars and all of the other residents who live adjacent to Hester Avenue, preventative action needs to be taken by the erection of traffic barriers running along the edge of the curb from the corner of Baltimore Parade, past the Dunbar's home in an easterly direction, as far as the RAAFA Village on Hester Avenue (which houses hundreds of elderly residents).

For the protection of my constituents a crash barrier on the medium strip to protect those same residents from vehicles speeding down the hill when travelling east to west on Hester Avenue should also be installed.

I would not like to guestimate how many of these crash barriers are erected around Perth; all that is being sought is a modest length of barrier to protect these families in their homes.

I have no doubt that if this were put to public comment the overwhelming response of all Western Australians would be in support of offering protection to the Dunbar family and particularly Eve, who is now living in the bedroom where Nate was killed.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN QUIGLEY LLB JP MLA
Member for Butler