

Stacy Dunbar

27 March 2014

The Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC  
904 Canning Highway  
Canning Bridge WA 6153

Dear Hon Simon O'Brien, MLC

**PETITION NO 31 – TRAFFIC CRASH BARRIERS, MERRIWA**

I am writing this letter in regards to our petition that the Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson tabled on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

As a resident of the City of Wanneroo I have great concerns about the safety of my family, and for those who, like myself, have property that runs alongside Hester Avenue, Merriwa.

Hester Avenue is four lanes wide, there is a hill running down from Marmion Avenue and it is very straight from Marmion Avenue to Connolly Drive. Unfortunately this creates a "racetrack" for hoon drivers. This has been a concern of mine for many years, but in the past 2 years, my husband and I have noticed a large increase in accidents and hoon drivers on this stretch of road.

We are petitioning to have crash barriers erected from the back of my property, located on the corner of Hester Avenue and Baltimore Parade, down Hester Avenue to Connolly Drive roundabout and also on the medium strip down the centre of Hester Avenue.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2013 a drunk driver crashed her car through our fence and through 2 bedrooms which resulted in the death of our 8 month old son. The driver crossed all four lanes of Hester Avenue, including crossing the medium strip, going up a small embankment before entering our property.

The City of Wanneroo have said that while the death of my son is tragic, the road played no part in the crash. (Refer enclosed response from City of Wanneroo). While I agree that Hester Avenue is a beautifully maintained road, the layout of this road, and the increase in traffic flow allows those who do the wrong thing to endanger the lives of those who live close to the road.

The City of Wanneroo have stated that the road currently has approximately 15,000 cars using Hester Avenue, with the ability to service 35,000 cars. They also plan to open up a new freeway on/off ramp on Hester Avenue, so I can only see this safety issue becoming more of a problem as time goes on.

I feel that crash barriers along Hester Avenue will not only protect those who live close to the road, but also the road users.

I think that it is the most cost effective safety precaution, that still allows traffic to move freely and gives the residents some piece of mind that a car will not end up in their home.

I never want anyone else to go through what we have been through, and by erecting crash barrier I feel I can achieve that.

We appreciate you looking into this matter for us.

Yours sincerely

Stacy Dunbar

22 October 2013

Mr J Quigley, MLA  
Member for Butler  
PO Box 2024  
CLARKSON WA 6030

Dear John

**SAFETY BARRIER – CONNOLLY AVENUE AND BALTIMORE PARADE MERRIWA**

I refer to my letter of 26 June 2013 in response to your request for the installation of safety barriers along the verge and median of Hester Avenue between Connolly Avenue and Baltimore Parade, Merriwa.

The City has now been advised by Main Roads WA that only a preliminary report was completed on this crash as the house is out of the clearzone and the road environment was not a contributing factor; ie., the car went over a median, over the other of half of the dual carriageway and over the gardens.

The death of Nate Dunbar was a tragedy, however as it has been determined by Main Roads WA that the road was not a contributing factor to his death, the City is unable to accede to your request.

Yours sincerely,

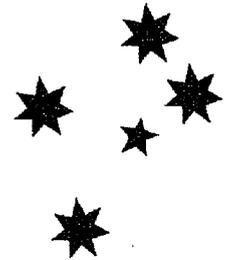
Dennis Blair  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE**

cc Elected Members



JOHN QUIGLEY LLB JP MLA

7 June 2013



Mayor Tracey Roberts  
City of Wanneroo  
Locked Bag No. 1  
WANNEROO WA 6946

Dear Tracey

**STACY & JUSTIN DUNBAR and their late son NATE**

I have had the opportunity of having a lengthy conference with Stacy Dunbar, whose family have now moved back into their residence on the corner of Hester Avenue and Baltimore Parade. Also present was Stacy's mother, , who from time to time has stayed with Stacy and Justin at the residence.

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.

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 it is motorists speeding down the hill.

I appeal to you on behalf of Mr and Mrs Dunbar and other residents who live adjacent to Hester Avenue to instruct the City to take preventative action 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.

Additionally, there should be erected 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.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but had these crash barriers been in place last year, Nate would never have been killed.

The more economical answer is of course that all drivers, drive within the speed limit and not consume alcohol prior to driving by you and I know that this is not going to happen. Given what has happened at the Dunbar's home, I urge your City to give priority to the erection of the crash barriers.

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36 OCEAN KEYS BOULEVARD, CLARKSON WA 6030 (Opposite Clarkson Library)  
PH: 9407 8600 FAX: 9407 8644 EMAIL: john.quigley@mp.wa.gov.au



I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

**JOHN QUIGLEY LLB JP MLA**  
**Member for Butler**

22 October 2013

Mr J Quigley, MLA  
Member for Butler  
PO Box 2024  
CLARKSON WA 6030

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Yours sincerely,

Dennis Blair  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE**

cc Elected Members

28 June 2013

Mr J Quigley MLA  
Member for Mindarie  
PO Box 2024  
CLARKSON WA 8030

Dear John

Thank you for your recent correspondence requesting, as a consequence of the tragic death of Nate Dunbar, the installation of safety barriers along the verge and median of Hester Avenue between Connolly Avenue and Baltimore Parade, Merriwa.

It is standard practice for Main Roads WA to commission a Crash Location Report (CLR) for use by the road asset owner, the WA Police and the State Coroner in the execution of their responsibilities when a road fatality occurs. The purpose of the CLR is to determine if any road environment features contributed, or may have contributed, to the crash and make recommendations to reduce or eliminate any identified hazard arising from the road environment features considering current Australian Standards and Austroads guidelines.

To date the City has not received a copy of the CLR for this fatality, which may be delayed until after the legal processes are complete. After receiving the report, Administration will analyse it and a report will be prepared for the consideration of any resulting works and funding.

Yours sincerely

Dennis Blair  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE**

cc Elected Members