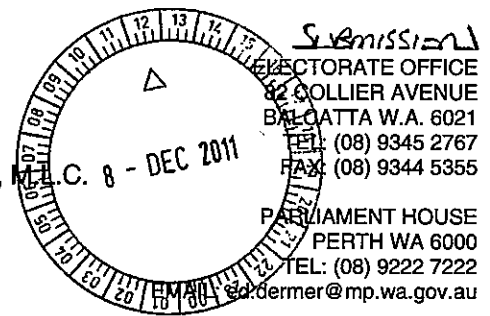




PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EDMUND DERMER, B.Sc. (Hons), Dip.Ed., M.L.C. 8 - DEC 2011
MEMBER FOR NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION



The Hon. Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman - Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Brian,

Thank you for the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (Committee) invitation to provide a submission regarding the issue entailed in Petition No 146 – Pedestrian Safety near Kingsway Shopping Centre.

The petitioners state that they 'are especially concerned for the safety of pedestrians living on the western side of this section of Wanneroo Road, who are seeking access to the Kingsway Shopping Centre and medical centres located on the eastern side of Wanneroo Road. Many pedestrians seeking to cross this section of Wanneroo Road are seniors and very concerned for their safety when making the crossing'.

The petitioners request an investigation of their safety concern and encouragement of the Minister for Transport to take steps to alleviate their concern.

I submit that an inquiry by your Committee would be particularly worthwhile and instructive. It would provide an opportunity for consideration of evidence received from pedestrians; Main Roads WA; medical service practitioners; retailers and others with either relevant expertise or an interest in the issue raised by the petition.

I am confident that such an inquiry would prove a valuable opportunity for an examination of the legitimate interests of all concerned. Apparently conflicting considerations in such road use and access matters would be carefully examined, with the strong potential for effective solutions to challenges to emerge from such examination. Recommendations arising from the inquiry may well further the petitioners' request that the Legislative Council encourage the Minister for Transport to take steps to alleviate their concern.

I am also confident that such an inquiry would be instructive for all concerned. Valuable knowledge and understanding would arise and be available for both decision makers and people living with the outcome of decisions. What is learned from such inquiry would be of practical value in many areas of Western Australia.

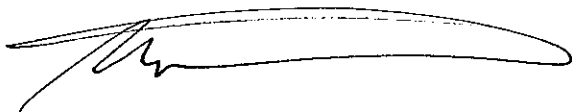
My understanding of the petitioners' concern was enhanced by joining residents of the Kingsley Lakeside Village on the western side of Wanneroo Road, in a walk across that road to the Kingsway Shopping Centre on the opposite side.

PUBLIC

I have not raised with the Ombudsman my thoughts on the issue raised in Petition No 146. On October 21st 2011 I wrote to the Minister for Transport to draw Mr. Buswell's attention to the concern entailed in the petition and to ask him to join local residents and I in crossing the relevant section of Wanneroo Road. The letter has been acknowledged and I am awaiting the Minister's consideration. Please find a copy of my letter to the Minister enclosed.

Thank you for the Committee's consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Dermer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ed Dermer MLC
Member for North Metropolitan Region

5 December 2011

PUBLIC



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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The Hon. Troy Buswell MLA
Minister for Transport
12th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Troy,

I write to draw your attention to a serious concern made clear to me today when I joined Mrs. Madge Powell, Mr. John Mills and six other residents of Kingsley Lakeside Village in crossing Wanneroo Road from the Village on the western side to the eastern side, where residents seek to access the Kingsway Shopping Centre and medical centres.

We crossed Wanneroo Road from the west to the east at about 10:30 this morning and, despite that section of Wanneroo Road being divided by a substantial island, the crossing was particularly hazardous. We crossed from the path leading from the Kingsley Lakeside Village and I can confirm that the crossing is highly dangerous for pedestrians. The danger is particularly aggravated for senior pedestrians during the extended periods of weekdays when Wanneroo Road traffic volumes are exceptionally high.

I am advised that the Kingsley Lakeside Village has 90 residents who range in age from 58 to 93, with an average age of 75 years. Pedestrian access to the shopping and medical centres is especially important to the wellbeing and health of these senior Western Australians.

Residents have explained to me that Kingsway is their local shopping centre, with the nearest comparable shopping centres being in Warwick and Greenwood. They further explained that accessing comparable shopping centres by public transport requires them to cross Wanneroo Road to reach a bus stop, either on the outward or return journey.


I fully appreciate that Wanneroo Road is a major arterial road; and I am sure that you will fully appreciate the importance of safe pedestrian access across the section of Wanneroo Road I have referred to in this letter. My purpose in writing is to ask you to investigate strategies that could be implemented to enhance the safety of these pedestrians.

PUBLIC

I would be very pleased if you would agree to join me and local concerned residents in crossing this section of Wanneroo Road. My experience this morning enhanced my understanding of the safety concern that had been explained to me by Kingsley Lakeside Village residents. I am sure that you would find sharing the experience to be similarly informative. I have found onsite visiting to be a particularly effective way of understanding road safety hazards and considering potential strategies for addressing such hazards,

Thank you for considering my requests.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Dermer MLC
Member for North Metropolitan Region

21 October 2011

Copies to:

Mrs. Madge Powell, 37/50 Woodlake Retreat, Kingsley WA 6026

Mr. John Mills, 20/50 Woodlake Retreat, Kingsley WA 6026

The Hon. Ken Travers MLC, Shadow Minister for Transport, 2/129 Grand Boulevard,
Joondalup WA 6027

PUBLIC