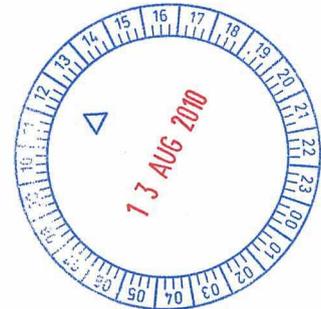




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**PUBLIC**



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

Dear Chairman

Petition No 78 – Better Bus Services

I refer to your correspondence dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010 regarding the above petition, and am pleased to provide a submission in support of the petition.

My submission on these important issues is as follows.

My constituents in the Northern Suburbs are deeply concerned with the lack of access they have to Transperth bus services. Particular suburbs that have been singled out to me are Ashby, Tapping, Sinagra, Carramar and Banskia Grove.

After hearing from my constituents it is evident that the circumstances need to be investigated. My understanding of the situation from my meetings with members of the local community and the data they have provided me with is as follows:

In the five suburbs of Ashby, Tapping, Banskia Grove, Sinagra and Carramar there are only three bus services; the 390, 391 and 468. Some residents are reportedly more than 1.5km away from the closest bus stop. Some streets located close to Lake Marignup are situated almost 2km away from any public transport access. The walking distance required is prohibitive, especially for the elderly and for public transport users caught in bad weather.

Since entering into a contract with Volgren in 1998 the State's fleet of buses has grown by 22% and now an estimated 1130 buses. It is apparent that Ministers and MPs from both sides of the political aisle have acknowledged that increasing demand for public transport services require a continued expansion of bus services to prevent overcrowding and meet the demands of growing areas in the outskirts of the metropolitan area.

During this time we have also seen a major expansion of the rail system which has freed up buses for expansion into these areas.

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**MEMBER FOR NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION**

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In the 2009/10 financial year there was no net increase in bus services, with the 65 new buses being adequate only for replacement and reserve purposes, not for growth of the public transport system.

With public transport fares rising at above the CPI, residents feel that the higher fees they are paying are not reflected in the bus services they are provided with.

49 signatures were collected from residents concerned about the potential impacts of the proposed changes. They should be given the opportunity to present their views to the Committee and the Government on decisions that will impact their quality of life in the future.

The concerns of my northern suburbs constituents will undoubtedly be shared by others living in the new suburbs on the urban fringe. It would also be good for this Committee to examine whether the lack of public transport in new suburbs is impacting on the affordable living for first homebuyers.

On behalf of my constituents and residents of the area, I encourage the Committee to further investigate this important issue.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ken Travers', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the top of the name.

**KEN TRAVERS MLC  
MEMBER FOR NORTH METROPOLITAN**

11 August 2010

CC: Glynis Monks, principal petitioner