



Your Ref: Petition No. 135

10 October 2011

Ms Caroline Crisp

West Leederville

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
Perth WA 6000  
Attn: Hon. Brian Ellis MLC

Dear Sir

**Petition No. 135 - Shenton College Catchment Area**

Thank you for your letter acknowledging receipt of our petition which was tabled by Hon Giz Watson MLC in the Legislative Council on 22 September 2011.

My written submission is as follows -

In the petition we are seeking a change of the Shenton College local area intake boundary to include the suburb of West Leederville, in order to enable students from West Leederville Primary School to attend Shenton College. We oppose the exclusion and our children are becoming disconnected from their community at a time of great transition.

#### Proximity of Shenton College

Shenton College is geographically our closest high school. West Leederville Primary School is the only school on the Perth - Fremantle train line excluded from the Shenton College catchment area. We are only three train stops away from Shenton College.

Transport routes to Churchlands SHS and Mount Lawley SHS are problematic due to distance, traffic congestion and limited public transport.

In particular, direct public transport connecting West Leederville with Mount Lawley Senior High School is very limited.

#### Local Alternative Lost

Since the loss of Perth Modern School in 2007 as a local intake school, West Leederville has been placed within the 'optional' areas of Mt Lawley and Churchlands Senior High Schools. Surprisingly, and despite its closer proximity, access to Shenton College was not provided to West Leederville Primary School students as either an optional or in boundary secondary school.

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### Environmental and Health Benefits

We view the train line and bike path as a benefit that connects our school community with Shenton College.

#### Trains:

- Easy access to West Leederville and Shenton Park train stations.
- Less reliance on cars, reduced congestion and lower exposure to air pollutants.
- Safe, independent and quick travel to and from Shenton College - 3 train stops on a short journey.

#### Specially Marked Bike Path:

- Promotes regular exercise, improving physical health.
- Reduced exposure to air pollutants.
- Student independence.
- Improved mental health.

### WLPS Community Left in Limbo

For some time now, dissatisfied parents have been requesting the Education Department review the Shenton College local area intake boundary to include West Leederville. These requests have taken the form of multiple letters and meetings involving school principals, the School Council and the P&C.

To date, these efforts have not resulted in any resolution from the Department. This is despite a number of verbal assurances from senior departmental officials that the request would be favourably considered. This has caused ongoing frustration for parents and students who elect to continue in the public school system for high school education.

Further to this, assurances were given to West Leederville Primary School parents in 2009 and 2010 that students applying to Shenton College would be accommodated. However, they were not. This caused considerable anxiety and difficulty for those year 7 students left with little time and opportunity to look for alternative schools.

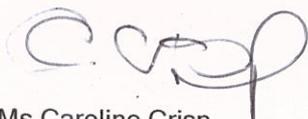
The fact that very few students from West Leederville Primary have attended either Mt Lawley or Churchlands SHS since the loss of Perth Modern School in 2007, is indicative of the problems associated with accessing either of these sites. We believe Shenton College would provide fairer access for WLPS students, for the reasons outlined in this letter.

After 5 years of waiting for a resolution to this concern, it seems that our requests have been ignored. Your attention to resolve this matter is requested in order to allow current year 7 West Leederville Primary School students to attend Shenton College in 2012.

Please be advised that we have not taken our complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Caroline Crisp

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