



Mrs Kathleen Mitchell

21 November 2011

Re: Petition No. 141 – Better Bus Services Ellenbrook to Midland

Dear Hon. Brian Ellis MLC

Enclosed is my written submission regarding my petition No. 141 Better Bus Services from Ellenbrook to Midland.

Please note that I have not taken my complaint to Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigation.

I believe we should have an increased bus service directly from Ellenbrook to Midland by the 335 mainstream bus on weekdays and commencement of a direct bus service on Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.

The 335 bus times are too limited to use for specialist doctors, hospital, pathologists, Medicare, Centrelink, better employment opportunities, adult and further education, out of hours shopping at weekends, train and other essential services provided at Midland Gate. From "Ellenbrook" this trip takes approx. half an hour to Midland which is only half the time it takes via the Bassendean train.

During May 2011 I trialled a trip by public transport with a friend to "Midland Gate" from Ellenbrook via the Bassendean bus no. 955 and train. The total travelling time for the day was approx. two and a half hours and 8 changes of transport. From Aveley and the surrounding area for a one way trip the journey starts with: One shuttle bus to the No. 955 bus. The 955 bus goes to Bassendean Train Station. The train goes to Midland Train Station. The shuttle bus takes you to Midland Gate, the main shopping area, so it has taken four lots of transports and will take another four more for the return journey.

The Bassendean train Station has 144 steps (10 flights of stairs) or four lifts to negotiate for the day's journey. This is not an option for many people. It is ridiculous that we are forced to go this way to Midland Gate which has the most essential services taking a total of two and a half hours and 8 transport changes when taking the 335 bus to Midland Gate takes a total of one and a half hours from "Aveley" and only four transport changes in total for the return journey. Midland is a central hub for shopping, hospital, medical, employment and education.

I have been lobbying for a better bus service since 2007 and have taken part in several surveys and petitions. I have emailed and spoken to several politicians. I have spoken to Trans Perth officials and

attended their forums. I have spoken to young people who are unsatisfied with public transport in our area and also spoken to many seniors.

Our local member said he wants us to spend all of our money here in Ellenbrook and that we will be self-sufficient in the near future and therefore do not need increased bus services to Midland. It appears that we were going to get a shuttle bus from Midland to Ellenbrook provided for us some years ago but this was cancelled at the last minute.

A Trans Perth official said at their display at "The Shops" in Ellenbrook that we will never have an increased bus service to Midland from Ellenbrook and that we are at the bottom of the priority list. I would like to question this 'priority list' as the Ellenbrook/Aveley/The Vines region has an increasing population, particularly made up of young families. This can be directly seen in other government projects such as the continuing building of new schools, where many of the students will be prime users of public transport. Further there are several Aged Care and Seniors Housing Facilities that are significant in size, with more being built. Both of these groups require access to the wide range of services at Midland and these facilities are not available in Bassendean.

Members of the State Government have been invited to travel with us on public transport from Ellenbrook to Midland Gate via Bassendean but these requests have fallen on deaf ears.

I suggest that a couple of busses could be taken from the Bassendean bus 955 service and added to the 335 bus service as the 955 seems to be over serviced. The Morley bus 956 stops at the Bassendean train station on its journey.

Personally I would implement a Circle Bus on this side of Perth - as occurs in many other parts of WA. It would solve huge transport problems and could include Midland, through Aveley/Ellenbrook to Joondalup (with train) allowing people to travel east and west across the suburbs. This circuit route would provide school leavers in the area access to University, TAFE and a range of other educational facilities that have recently been built as well as opening employment opportunities to people living in across all of these areas. Presently, young people that I know have had to leave the area due to transport access issues. These changes need to be implemented, especially in the light of the train to Ellenbrook being sidelined for the foreseeable future - leaving the Ellenbrook/Aveley areas isolated from fundamental services.

Yours sincerely

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Kathleen Mitchell

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