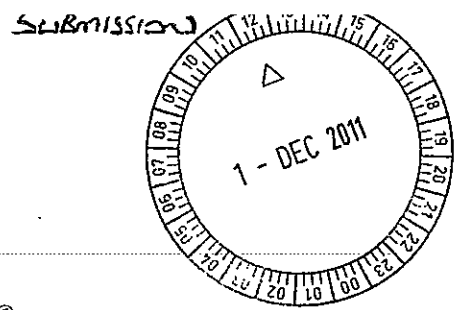




Parliament of Western Australia
Legislative Council

The Hon Linda Savage MLC Member for East Metropolitan Region

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Our Ref: 184.11

Hon Brian Ellis
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA

Dear Mr Ellis

Petition No 141 – Better Bus Services Ellenbrook to Midland

Thank you for your letter of 3 November 2011 in regard to Petition 141.

Since entering Parliament in March 2010 the issue of public transport in and out of Ellenbrook has been raised frequently with me by constituents. In response to this I have raised the issue in the Parliament on a number of occasions, asking questions on 11 August 2010, 16 September 2010, 10 November 2010, 15 March 2011 and 1 September 2011, in Estimates on 13 August 2010, making a Statement on 13 April 2011, and presenting a Petition on 1 November 2011.

Mayor Charlie Zannino (City of Swan) has also brought the issue of improved public transport for Ellenbrook to my attention and has told me that improved direct bus services to and from Midland/Ellenbrook is a priority.

Currently the only direct bus service is the 335 that departs Ellenbrook at 7.14am and 8.46am each weekday morning and a return bus service at 3.30pm and 4.25pm each weekday afternoon. There is no direct bus service at all on Saturday, Sunday or public holidays notwithstanding that Midland recently became a special trading precinct.

The very limited direct weekday service impacts particularly on the elderly and young parents. Midland is a major destination for medical and dental care, as well as a range of government and non government services including Centrelink. It also has cinemas and a range of shopping not available in Ellenbrook. To get to Midland from Ellenbrook and return generally involves a number of changes involving bus and train which is problematic for the elderly and young women travelling with children and a pram. I have accompanied Mrs Kathleen Mitchell on the Ellenbrook to Bassendean to Midland bus trip and observed personally the difficulties she experienced. I have also written to the Minister for Transport outlining the issues.

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The East Metropolitan Region Public Transport Report February 2011 states at page 20:
"Overall, Perth's Eastern Region experiences high levels of disadvantage; evidenced by relatively unskilled and vulnerable occupations, low educational attainment, low income levels, a high indigenous population and high transport vulnerability."

I have been advised that consultations by the PTA have led to the conclusion that an improved direct bus service to Ellenbrook is not a priority for the residents of Ellenbrook. I have been unable to ascertain when and where the consultations leading to that conclusion occurred, in particular since 2008.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Petition 141- Better Bus Services Ellenbrook to Midland.

Yours sincerely



Hon Linda Savage MLC

MEMBER FOR EAST METROPOLITAN REGION

WA LABOR SPOKESPERSON FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD YEARS

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