

To Hon Matther Swinbourn MLC

Standing Committee on Environment and Public affairs

Re: Petition No 117, Parking Congestion at Local Schools:

This petition was put forward to review issues related to parking around schools with the aim of decreasing congestion and increasing allocation of parking bays around schools during peak times for drop off and pick up of children around schools.

The issues raised by the inadequate allocation of parking bays and traffic movement around schools has been a constant source of danger for children traversing the roads around schools, and frustration for traffic, parents, residents, schools, rangers and police within the Perth metropolitan area. The frustration comes from the lack of parking bays because:

- Parents arrive up to an hour before school and an hour before the afternoon bell goes just so they get one of the few parking bays possible around the school. Although it is feasible to expect the parents to pick up their children and move on, in reality this does not happen. Parents use schools for congregating places and a safe place for the children to socialise before and after school, so the bays are used for long periods of time by a small number of parents.
- In some schools' parents park on the median strips because it is the only place to fit the car close to the school where it is off the road.
- Parents in this day and age believe their children are not safe walking on the street by themselves to school, so they drive their children to school before they go to work.
- There are a group of parents with children in Kindy and Pre-Primary who must accompany their children to the classroom and hand their children over to a staff member by rule of the Department of Education for safety measures.
- Some parents give up and just constantly drive in loops around the school until their children appear at the meeting point so they stop their car and the children run to the car through the traffic to climb into their parent's car. This behaviour may cause a fatality soon. Many of these parents have younger children in prams and then try to get to day care and work on time.
- On occasions, outside Butler College and East Butler Primary School, drivers have sped through manned crosswalks when the attendant has been standing with his flags out to indicate for traffic to stop.
- Drivers get frustrated and speed through crosswalks when the children are trying to cross, and many parents encourage their children to run across the road where there is no crosswalk.
- The chaos on streets around schools need tightening but this will also stop when things start to calm down with better parking and less parental frustration.
- Some parents are angry at the time each of them spend trying to get a parking space. Some parents spend up to 2 hours of their day on week days trying to get their children to and from school.
- Schools are faced with keeping and supervising children in the office area to prevent them going near the road waiting for their parents because cars climb the kerb to get around other cars and the children could be injured just standing on the verge.

When coupling the above information and then overlaying the local and state laws and conditions pertaining to parking the community is exacerbated because of the total lack of adequate parking provision and total lack of easy traffic movement around the school at drop off and pick up times.

Whilst the common excuse is that the Department of Education, the Department of Planning or relevant Local Government does not provide an adequate solution for this problem, it is our constituents who suffer the problem every week day and there has not been an acceptable solution or answer to the problem. Turning a "blind eye" is becoming a dangerous option as traffic congestion is getting worse and children are taking more risks through the traffic to get to school on time.

Further to that issue, Quinns Rock faces horrifying traffic issues on Salerno Drive, as do other schools at Christ Church Grammar School, Methodist Ladies College, East Butler Primary School where drivers get so frustrated they leave their cars to argue with road rage, Kingsway Christian College and St James Anglican School just to name a few with parking

problems. It is obvious that not much headway has been made to improve the parking situation around schools to relieve the frustration to this worsening situation for our communities and constituents, and this problem is also historical to these schools. This problem is heightened when considering that staff carparks are inundated with parent cars and staff can't park either. When approached by the school Administration staff to move their car the parents swear at the staff and refuse to move the car. To highlight this, we can refer to the case in the recent media release where a community nurse tried to park her car and resorted to the only option and that was to park on a patient's driveway opposite Mindarie Primary School and the sum result was that she was fined. The obvious question asked could be "What other solution could she have found when all verges, and available spots were taken?"

This petition has recommendations to attempt to alleviate lack of parking and traffic congestion around schools both currently and for proposed school sites. Some of these solutions are new and creative as that is what is required in built up areas like the Metropolitan areas around our city schools:

- ✓ A review of the local law, perhaps with a state law to override this issue, to allow verge parking, particularly on the edge of school oval reserves, and around the perimeter of the school during pick up and drop off times with curbing treatment facilitating this.
- ✓ Provision of angled parking instead of parallel on street parking where possible and safe, remembering the school zone speed is 40kms during these times and there is currently discussions about dropping the school zone speed to 30kms per hour.
- ✓ To investigate the possibility of one-way traffic through school zone areas only through school drop off and pick up times.
- ✓ To review Department of Education, Planning Department and Local Government Guidelines and policies as a prevention strategy so these new safer laws/policies are applied, preventing the current issues continuing when new schools are built and commissioned.
- ✓ For traffic management planning not only to be done retrospectively but in the planning stages of new suburbs being developed across the relevant state Government Departments and Local Authorities so safe traffic movements happen from the commencement of new schools being built.

I ask that the Legislative Council look at this issue with a fresh view to making appropriate creative changes as suggested above which is relevant to each school's situation to improve the safety of our children and our constituents.

Kind Regards

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