



HON **DONNA FARAGHER** JP MLC
MEMBER FOR EAST METROPOLITAN REGION



17 December 2021

Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council Committee Office
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

By email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Peter

Re: Petition No.040 – Caledonian Avenue, Maylands

Thank you for your letter dated 9 December 2021 regarding *Petition No. 040 – Caledonian Avenue, Maylands* which I tabled in the Legislative Council on 8 December 2021.

The petition contained 254 signatures and outlines the community's concerns with the McGowan Government's decision to close the Caledonian Avenue level crossing which will permanently block access for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

By way of background, prior to the 2017 State Election the Labor Party announced as an election commitment that the level crossing would be removed. While indicating the removal was a priority, it was not until August 2021 that the final plans relating to the removal of the crossing and associated upgrade works on the surrounding road network were publicly released.

As you may be aware, the level crossing at Caledonian Avenue is well-utilised and currently connects one side of Maylands to the other. In addition to enabling vehicle access, the site also includes an existing at-grade pedestrian level crossing.

The removal of the level crossing is supported by many in the local community. However, the central concern of the petitioners is that no provision has been made for pedestrians and cyclists as well as those in the community who require the use of wheelchairs and prams to be able to continue to safely cross at this section of the line.

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While it may be argued that there are other nearby alternatives to cross the railway line, including the Maylands and Meltham Train Stations, these are not designed as thoroughfares, particularly for cyclists and are at some walking distance from Caledonian Avenue. Furthermore, concerns have been raised with regard to the timing of the associated road works which are not expected to commence until after the closure of the crossing.

The petitioners are therefore urging the McGowan Government to change their proposed plans to allow for continued access for pedestrians and cyclists. Their preference is the construction of a well-lit and safe underpass. The matter has also been raised at the City of Bayswater in council meetings with a number of deputations from concerned members of the community being received.

In response to concerns, I understand that a feasibility study for an underpass is now being conducted by Main Roads WA and results are expected in the new year. The Committee's assistance in obtaining any further information from the State Government regarding this study and/or any other potential alternatives being considered to maintain access for pedestrians and cyclists would certainly be appreciated by the petitioners and the community generally.

Thank you again for providing me the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee in relation to this important matter. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



HON DONNA FARAGHER JP MLC
Member for East Metropolitan Region