



Karen Milligan

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

PUBLIC

Hon Brian Ellis MLC

Re: Petition No 100 – Transperth Changes Bus Route (Number 19) Yokine

Thank you for your reply to our petition as outlined above. While I realise this matter has now been finalised (on 18 May 2011) I feel compelled to respond to your letter to voice my disappointment at the action taken by the committee.

I was prompted to take up a petition about changes to our bus route following communication with the then, Minister for Transport Mr Simon O'Brien, our local Member of Parliament, Mr Michael Sutherland and Transperth. While I understand and expect Transperth to review bus services and make changes to public transport routes to meet community needs, this should be done fairly and openly and in this case it appears that due process has not been followed. This conclusion was reached following the conflicting information that was provided to us about the changes to the Route 19 bus service by Minister O'Brien, Transperth and Michael Sutherland and his staff. People that I had spoken with all felt that something underhanded had taken place and the changes were made to appease a few as it appeared that the proper consultative process was not followed. I have an email from Transperth dated 6 August 2010 that states in part '*As I mentioned in my previous email, there are no changes that are scheduled for the near future and any proposed changes will only take place after extensive community consultation*'. I cannot find any community member who was ever approached by Transperth in this consultative process.

Our petition was sent to the Shadow Minister for Transport, Mr Ken Travers on 5 November 2010. I was informed by your office on 2 December 2010 that our petition was tabled on the 17 November 2010 and referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs. Your letter asked that I provide a written submission about the issue, which I posted to your office on the 7 December 2010. I appreciate that you probably have many petitions to deal with, however I was extremely disappointed to receive your reply and find after five months the only action taken in regards to our petition was to "seek comment" from the Minister for Transport, the very office that prompted the petition in the first instance. Surely to make an informed decision as you have done, your office should have requested some type of evidence from Transperth to show the number of requests they had received which prompted the change? Minister Buswell's letter states *that Transperth only implement changes once it is firmly understood that the change will provide an overall benefit to the community*, yet it appears that a copy of this information and how it had been obtained was not called for by the committee. Also in Minister Buswell's reply he states that Transperth examined passenger usage at all stops that were removed: this is not correct as I have correspondence from the Minister (O'Brien) that clearly states Transperth counted the number of passengers boarding the bus at the terminus in Raymond Street but they did not count those boarding the bus in Hayes Avenue, of which there are many as this was the bus stop I used to board the bus. I also take issue with the point raised by Minister Buswell where he refers to the bus previously following a one way loop around Raymond Street *which meant the bus was used in one direction which was a major disadvantage*, and goes on to tell us that *the new terminus loop is shorter providing a further benefit to passengers*. While the loop from the new terminus back to Flinders Street is 300 meters shorter than the Raymond Street loop, the new loop is also one way and does not have any bus stops that would allow people to board or alight from the bus. The Raymond Street loop had the added advantage of having 4 bus stops allowing people to alight from the bus. Added to this during peak

periods, it can take the bus several minutes to be able to enter Flinders Street owing to heavy traffic and as the bus leaves the new terminus at the same time it used to leave in Raymond Street, passengers boarding the bus from Blythe Avenue onward now arrive in the city at least 5 minutes later so I fail to see how Minister Buswell can claim this is of greater benefit to passengers. Furthermore, I understand that there was also a petition signed by over 70 residents who live around the new loop who are most unhappy to have a bus now running through their formally quite suburban street which does not benefit them in any way. We are left wondering how many people had lobbied to have Route 19 changed and was this number greater than those who have been inconvenienced as a result of the changes?

Perhaps I have misunderstood the process that would be taken by the Standing Committee with our petition and as I have already stated, I feel affronted by the decision by the Standing Committee to only seek *comments* from the Minister for Transport in relation to this petition and not seek any actual evidence, which has shaken my belief in the Democratic process. I am therefore looking forward to the State election due in the next 18 months where I will at least be able to register my protest against the sitting member at the ballot box.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Milligan

28 May 2010

Cc: Troy Buswell MLA
Michael Sutherland MLA
Ken Travers MLC