

MARGARET RIVER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL, PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS

473. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

- (1) Has the minister and/or Main Roads Western Australia been approached with a request for a pedestrian underpass linking the Margaret River Senior High School and the Margaret River Primary School under this increasingly busy and dangerous section of Bussell Highway?
- (2) If so, when and what action is intended?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As the honourable member may be aware, a number of improvements were undertaken in 2003, including changes to bus parking, the provision of a median strip and a reduction in the speed limit to 50 kilometres an hour in conjunction with the guard controlled crossing on Bussell Highway. These improvements have provided a level of protection to children attending the Margaret River Primary School and Margaret River Senior High School that is in keeping with other similar locations. The provision of an overpass or underpass at this site is not supported by Main Roads. Experience has shown that there is generally a low level of patronage of pedestrian overpasses and underpasses, particularly when it is possible to cross at a number of locations at road level. As a result, these facilities are generally provided only when a large number of pedestrians wish to cross freeways and other high-standard roads that carry large volumes of traffic at high speed. In view of this and other issues such as security concerns associated with underpasses and the high cost of providing these facilities, it is not considered that the provision of grade separated pedestrian facilities on Bussell Highway is appropriate. However, Main Roads will contact the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River to arrange an on-site meeting to assist in identifying measures that may further improve safety for children crossing this section of Bussell Highway.