

CARINE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — PARKING

Statement

HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan) [9.50 pm]: During the winter recess I took the opportunity to accept an invitation from a group of residents in the suburb of Carine who are facing the problem of an increase in student parking in narrow, curvilinear and cul-de-sac streets that were never designed to effectively become a de facto or replacement carpark for the adjacent school, which is Carine Senior High School. Full disclosure, I was a graduate of that high school in 1994. I know the area well. My parents still live there.

Carine Senior High School has been blessed twofold. It has a very competent principal, Mr Shuttleworth, who demonstrates I think quite considerable leadership of the students with whose education and care he is entrusted. The school has benefited—this is a time when I am bipartisan—from the government’s building and rebuilding program. Tonight we have been discussing some of the consequence of not building Roe 8. I think the key fact is that all development is disruptive. Nevertheless, we should be minded to incorporate and respond to that disruption in an appropriate way. Unfortunately, the redevelopment of Carine Senior High School is happening at such a scale and pace that the parking that has been designated for teachers is insufficient. The school has taken a view that students must give up their designated parking area to their teachers. Therefore, students now have no alternative but to park in adjacent streets. This is more than just a nuisance. This is seriously problematic, particularly in Minerva Way, Hispano Place, Suiza Place, Holmesfield Crescent and Chelmorton Loop. It is problematic for a number of reasons. First, residents are finding it very difficult to enter and exit their properties, particularly if they have a caravan or boat trailer. The local rubbish services are disrupted by the trucks not being able on occasions to access the bins that they are supposed to empty. Of course, the regular day-to-day interactions of tradespeople and courier services and the like are also disrupted in a way that, frankly, is unacceptable.

I note that this seems to be a uniform problem. This is not necessarily a political problem, and I am not making a political point. It seems to be the disposition of the planners within the Department of Education and Training to plan for and recommend a suite of redevelopment projects, some at considerable scale, that are likely to require or necessitate increased parking provision. I am a person minded to observe the powerful force of economic scarcity; however, I do not think the school planners, and I am talking here about the departmental people, should necessarily abrogate their responsibility or not consider the issue in a thoughtful way. This issue will not be temporary. The development works will take some time to play out. I also make the observation that the school’s cohort is probably two and a half to three of what I recall in the mid-1990s and is likely to grow. Furthermore, the school has a broader catchment area and there is an older cohort of students who will never be dissuaded from driving their cars to school. In fact, I think they should be encouraged to do so to continue to grow their skills.

First of all, I want to identify that the City of Stirling has been particularly proactive in attempting to work through some solutions that will meet the needs of residents and school students. It is undertaking surveys principally, and I think is being driven particularly well by the advocacy of councillors Karlo Perkov and Chris Hatton. My view is that solution needs to be —

Hon Sue Ellery: Scary!

Hon TJORN SIBMA: It is the truth, I am sorry. Hon Sue Ellery can be derisive about this, but we have local government members who are actually taking their jobs seriously and attempting to deal with a pragmatic issue in a way that meets the needs of residents. I think that kind of behaviour is to be applauded, and I am sure the member for Carine would like the support of his government in working through a solution as well. I make absolutely no categorisation or judgement of his action or activity in this respect, I am just not particularly au fait with what he has done. I am just raising the issue because it can be fixed for this reason. There is an abundant supply of land on the perimeter of the senior high school, particularly around Silica Road and Chelmorton Loop, that is probably in dual ownership. I think some is vested in the school and some is vested in the City of Stirling. It could well be turned into a provisional car park if not before the commencement of term 4 this year, then certainly for the commencement of term 1 next year. I invite anybody to walk along the streets during our school day and tell me that the situation is acceptable, because clearly it is not. I am seeking a balanced option that possibly regularises car parking in these adjacent streets in a far more acceptable manner, but also caters to the obvious need to provide students with an appropriate place to park their car. I look forward to continuing until we get an acceptable solution to this very fixable problem.