

HAMPTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL — ROAD SAFETY

1020. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Transport:

Can the minister please advise how the Liberal–National government is addressing the safety concerns of parents with children attending Hampton Park Primary School via the Tonkin Highway underpass?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

I thank the member for his question and, indeed, his efforts in working closely with the school community on this important issue. I also thank the member for arranging our visit to the school to view the situation firsthand and to discuss the issues with the principal and the school council representatives.

As the member would be aware, the project development for NorthLink WA includes a program of detailed community and stakeholder engagement. This includes a recently established working group to consider the options for access to Hampton Park Primary School from the east side of Tonkin Highway. I am pleased to advise that a preferred option has been identified and endorsed by the working group. This is a new underpass and car park to allow safe access for the students—exactly what the member and the school were looking for. A preferred proponent for the Tonkin grade separation project has been appointed and negotiations have commenced for the inclusion in the contract of the long underpass option.

I am advised that a safe crossing of Tonkin Highway will be maintained by the Main Roads contractor throughout the works, and the contractor will also liaise closely with the school throughout construction. The new underpass, together with other agreed drop-offs and pickups on the school grounds that we have talked about, will provide improved safety and access. Again, I would like to thank the member for Morley for the efforts that he undertook over a significant time with the local community and the school, and the conversations and quiet chats we had in the corridors to try to find an appropriate solution. I hope he finds that this satisfies the requirements of his local community.