

**SPEED WARNING SIGNS — BULLSBROOK**

*Grievance*

**MR F.A. ALBAN (Swan Hills)** [9.22 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Transport. Minister, we are all aware that one of the biggest road infrastructure projects for the state that will benefit the state and the hills is NorthLink WA, which will connect us to our resource base wealth in the state's north. This \$1.12 billion project, which is the largest project Main Roads has managed, will bring significant benefits to Bullsbrook residents by removing the majority of heavy truck traffic from our local roads and improving road safety. However, this plan is not due for completion until 2019. The burden of heavy traffic on Great Northern Highway has been and will continue to be carried by the members of the Bullsbrook community for the next three years.

On 4 October, I met with local community leaders and Main Roads representatives to see firsthand the situation as it exists. It was suggested that speeding vehicle-activated signs would be an appropriate safety measure for this locality. I refer to an extract from a letter written by the Bullsbrook Residents and Ratepayers Association that clearly articulates the community's needs. According to my notes, the letter reads —

I'm writing to ask your support to have the appropriate traffic signs at each end of Bullsbrook township, similar to those used to delineate 40kph areas near schools, which have been a tremendous success. We're very pleased that the NorthLink project is under way and look forward to the time when it is complete and much of the heavy haulage that goes through Bullsbrook township will use that route. However, in the meantime we are concerned about the number of vehicles that do not slow down when going through our town. As you know, our shopping centre is on both sides of Great Northern Highway (GNH) and people have to cross the road to access all of the shops. We also have multiple entrances and exits to various roads, businesses, RAAF Base Pearce and private properties in that section of the road making it even more dangerous. Our community is growing in number and more people and their families are using the shops. We are concerned about their safety with respect to crossing and accessing the GNH on foot and in vehicles.

We don't want to change the speed limit but rather, would like to make it more visible to drivers so they are more aware of the speed limit there and would be more willing to slow down. We know that the solar speed limit lights are very effective in school zones.

As the minister may be aware, Bullsbrook has been waiting some time for significant development to improve the many services on which the residents of Bullsbrook and the extensive hinterland depend. I am pleased to say that with Amex recently acquiring the significant property to the east of Great Northern Highway that development is now very much imminent. The landholding in the centre of Bullsbrook and the Great Northern Highway and Chittering Road frontage will be the centrepiece of Bullsbrook's renewal and will comprise approximately 250 hectares of land and approximately 2 500 dwellings. There will be a new town centre for Bullsbrook with approximately 20 000 square metres of retail, two supermarkets, a discount department store and small format retail opportunities, such as hardware. The development will commence in 2018 with retail shops to open in 2021. In addition, a further 2 000 dwellings will be developed south of this landholding. Clearly, Bullsbrook will change in the short term to the benefit of residents and businesses, plus it will provide some affordable housing, of which Perth is very much in need.

This information has been provided to the minister so that he is aware that despite NorthLink's benefits, future traffic on Great Northern Highway will continue to justify the use of and expenditure on speed warning signs. Great Northern Highway is the major arterial road to northern Western Australia and I am aware of the trucks and other road vehicles that use it. Currently, some 13 000 vehicles use it daily, of which 20 per cent are heavy vehicles or road trains. Vehicle-activated signs have been successfully deployed at places with similar road situations, such as Great Northern Highway in Bindoon, Toodyay Road in the Noble Falls precinct in Gidgegannup and Great Eastern Highway in Sawyers Valley and Mundaring. Three of those vehicle-activated signs are in the electorate of Swan Hills and are very successful.

As I have outlined, the community has noticed that not all motorists are obeying the 60-kilometre-an-hour speed limit change. Given the expansion of the commercial area, if the speed warning signs are approved, they will play a part in the safety of the community for many years to come. The minister's support in this matter is appreciated.

**MR W.R. MARMION (Nedlands — Minister for Transport)** [9.28 am]: I thank the member for the grievance and for giving me some notice of his concerns. I recognise his advocacy for the residents of Bullsbrook.

I have driven down that road many times; indeed, it is an essential northern corridor into the metropolitan area and obviously it is the only corridor for trucks. I acknowledge the member's point that approximately 13 000 trucks use the road daily and that a high percentage of those are tandem, double or triple road trains, which means that they are quite big trucks and going down the main street of a town such as Bullsbrook is an issue. Main Roads has had a couple of meetings on-site. The member for Swan Hills attended the last one in October. Studies have also

been done. There are signs that indicate that the speed limit through the town is 60 kilometres an hour—as the member knows, those signs are the largest 60-kilometre signs that can be put up under the uniform signage policy right across Australia—and an assessment of the traffic that goes through the town has been done. Main Roads has also assessed the speed that the traffic is going through. The majority of the traffic is going at 60 kilometres an hour, so most vehicles are sticking to the speed limit. We would not want to change the speed limit, either. Following that research, we looked at what we could do to ensure that 100 per cent of people will drive through the area at 60 kilometres an hour. There have been a couple of suggestions. We can put a couple more 60-kilometre-an-hour signs within the vicinity of the town site. The member would like to have vehicle-activated signs at each end of the town at reasonable spots to let people driving through know whether they are driving at over 60 kilometres an hour. I understand that a number of places on the Great Northern Highway have those signs, including Bindoon, Toodyay Road, Noble Falls, Gidgegannup and Sawyers Valley in Mundaring. Those are the sorts of signs that I think the member is seeking to be put at either end of the town at Bullsbrook. I can inform the member that Main Roads agreed to undertake that task and will arrange for the installation of two electronic vehicle-activated speed signs located on the north and south approaches to the town. The agency's speed zoning division will identify the actual locations on the site. It has to put them at reasonable sites so that there are good sight distances at each end and also that access to other driveways around there can be appropriately sighted. That will be provided by the experts at Main Roads. The cost of full installation and traffic management around it is about \$60 000. That will be provided by Main Roads.

In the interim, Main Roads recommends that Bullsbrook residents and also the ratepayers' association might like to approach the City of Swan for a speed-display trailer. We see those temporarily put in areas where people are not obeying the speed limit. Main Roads has recommended that Bullsbrook residents and the member advocate for support from the City of Swan and maybe it could put the display trailer in the town at either side of the carriageway to alert drivers to what speed they are driving. We agree with the member. We will move to put those vehicle-activated signs at either end of the town but in the interim perhaps the member could seek that the City of Swan put in the temporary display trailer signs for speed zoning. That will be a good outcome for the member's residents. The member has done a very good job in advocating for his community and Main Roads has done a good job of listening to the points raised by him and the ratepayers' association of Bullsbrook.