

CANNING HIGHWAY–PRESTON POINT ROAD INTERSECTION — PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Statement by Member for Bicton

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [12.55 pm]: In September 2018, an elderly woman suffered head injuries when she was hit by a car at the intersection of Canning Highway and Preston Point Road in East Fremantle. Following this incident, I became aware of further community concerns about pedestrian safety at this busy and dangerous intersection. Local residents have expressed their concern to me during my regular doorknocking, in phone calls and at my mobile offices in the area. Many local residents, such as Colleen Cronin, use the crossing to access local shops on the southern side of Canning Highway. Colleen simply does not feel safe using this intersection, and her feelings are echoed by many local residents. This intersection is a vital connection point for the suburb of East Fremantle, with 34 000 vehicles passing through it on workdays.

After campaigning in the community and working with the Town of East Fremantle, I am pleased that the Minister for Transport; Planning has advised me that the intersection will be upgraded before the end of this financial year. The upgrade will include new pram and wheelchair ramps and tactile pavers at all crossings, along with an improved alignment, walk–don't walk signs, flashing yellow lanterns and the installation of give-way-to-pedestrians signage, to improve driver compliance and awareness of crossing pedestrians.

Residents on either side of Canning Highway and its surrounds will now be able to safely access both sides of the highway. I would like to thank my community for bringing this issue to my attention; the Town of East Fremantle; and the Minister for Transport; Planning, Rita Saffioti, who has shown, and continues to show, a firm commitment to improving road safety in the electorate of Bicton.