

COUNTRY AGE PENSION FUEL CARD SCHEME

Statement by Member for Mandurah

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [12.55 pm]: I rise to appeal to the Minister for Regional Development to reconsider his decision to exclude the City of Mandurah municipality from the country age pension fuel card scheme. This short-sighted and ill-thought-out decision means that many pensioners living in Mandurah, including the electorates of Mandurah and Dawesville, miss out on the \$500 fuel card. The minister has said that one major criterion to receive the card is access to public transport. There are many pensioners in my electorate and in the member for Dawesville's electorate who do not have access to public transport, including local bus services, but have been slapped in the face by this minister. People living in old Madora Bay, north Lakelands, Parklands, parts of Greenfields, Coodanup, Placid Waters, Mariners Cove, areas of Falcon, Wannanup, Dawesville, Herron, Lake Clifton, Bouvard and Clifton do not have appropriate access to public transport and have been ruled ineligible for the card by this minister.

The ridiculous circumstance exists where constituents on one side of the Serpentine River are eligible and, some 400 metres across the bridge, constituents are not eligible. That is farcical. Many pensioners in my electorate have disabilities preventing them from catching buses. They rely on taxis or private transport to get to medical appointments, but have been denied the card. It is unfair. I want the minister to reconsider his decision to leave Mandurah pensioners out of the scheme. This decision must be reviewed. The people of Mandurah deserve better from this government.