

## HALE ROAD–WOOLWORTHS DRIVE INTERSECTION, FORRESTFIELD

### *Grievance*

**MR N.W. MORTON (Forrestfield)** [9.25 am]: I rise this morning to grieve to the Minister for Transport on the intersection of Hale Road and Woolworths Drive in the heart of my electorate in Forrestfield. Although this may not be the world's longest grievance, do not let that be a measure of its importance to my local community. This is a troublesome intersection, as the minister can attest to, having visited it with me, and one that has become a blackspot in the community. Woolworths Drive services Forrestfield Forum and Marketplace shopping centre, and Hale Road is one of the busiest local roads in the suburb of Forrestfield. Getting out of the shops is the biggest danger for motorists and shoppers, especially for those wanting to turn right out of Woolworths Drive back onto Hale Road. It is an issue I have been working on for some time but for little return, which disappoints me. Woolworths Drive is privately owned by the owners of the shopping centre and Hale Road is a Shire of Kalamunda–controlled road.

Like the state government, I am acutely aware of the importance of delivering transport solutions to the public and we have been busy investing heavily in those roads in this area, achieving significant productivity gains and vastly improving safety for mums and dads and road users alike. Some of these projects include Gateway WA, which many members would be aware of, and the grade separation of Berkshire Road, which was a major blackspot within my electorate with a crash, on average, every 10 days. There have also been upgrades to other intersections in my electorate, such as Hale Road and Tonkin Highway.

Unfortunately, when it comes to this road, the Shire of Kalamunda has been unwilling to come to the party and do its bit. Instead, the shire president has been blaming everyone else for the intersection when the responsibility lies with him and the shire. When my office contacted the Shire of Kalamunda in November 2014, I was informed by the shire that “it was preparing plans for improvements to vehicle and pedestrian safety for Main Roads to consider and comment on”. Almost 18 months later, no action has been taken to improve this intersection. Subsequent to this, I have met with the owners of Woolworths Drive twice, I have met with their architects to discuss viable solutions for the intersection, I have written to the federal member, Hon Ken Wyatt, MP—who also, as an aside, has been working very hard to resolve this issue locally—and I have spoken to the minister and his advisers on a number of occasions about this particular issue. I am also aware that there is a \$170 million regional road fund available for local governments to apply for funding for improvements in their area. However, I am informed that Main Roads has never received an application from the Shire of Kalamunda. That is extremely disappointing to me, and it should be to the local community, that there is a pot of money to apply to —

### *Point of Order*

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** It is a very interesting grievance and I know the area he is talking about, which does of course need some work, but I am just wondering whether this should be to the Minister for Local Government because it seems to be an issue about local government inactivity. We have not heard of any grievance in regard to the Minister for Transport, and I wonder whether the member is grieving to the right minister.

**Mr N.W. MORTON:** Further to that point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker, the local shire has done nothing, hence I am grieving to the minister.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Forrestfield, resume your seat. I will seek advice on the point of order. You have the decision to decide who to direct your grievance to, so you may continue. There is no point of order.

### *Grievance Resumed*

**Mr N.W. MORTON:** It is extremely disappointing that there is a pot of money that can be applied for and the shire has not even bothered to submit an application. This is very disappointing given that the shire president has been so vocal on the issue of late, yet the shire is not willing to contribute to the project. Furthermore, the shire president has not even written, emailed, phoned or sent a carrier pigeon, for that matter, to discuss this issue with either me or the federal member for Hasluck, Hon Ken Wyatt, MP. I appeal to the minister and his better nature. Although fixing this road is not his or the state's responsibility, the responsibility for community safety lies with all elected officials. I ask the minister to consider whether there is any capacity for the state to fix this road or make a contribution towards fixing this important intersection in my electorate.

**MR D.C. NALDER (Alfred Cove — Minister for Transport)** [9.30 am]: I thank the member for Forrestfield for this grievance and also for providing me with the opportunity to visit the location with him. I also note that this intersection has been an ongoing safety concern for residents since the member first raised this issue with me on behalf of his community back in early 2015. Having seen for myself the potential conflicts that drivers have to deal with at this location on a daily basis, I certainly share the concerns raised by local residents. Over the past five years there have been seven accidents at this intersection, of which six were right-turn crashes.

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Albany!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** Of those accidents, two required medical assistance to be sought. The risk of accidents at this location could be greatly reduced through a redesign of the intersection. I can well understand why the local community has sought the assistance of its state member for Forrestfield, Nathan Morton, and also his federal counterpart, Hon Ken Wyatt, to attempt to achieve a safe and effective outcome for all road users and pedestrians who try to negotiate this busy location. As the member has stated, Hale Road is a local road under the care and management of the Shire of Kalamunda. However, as the member has outlined, it would appear that the Shire of Kalamunda has done little to address the concerns of its ratepayers in this regard. I can confirm that the Liberal–National government has allocated \$150 million in the current financial year to assist local governments to undertake improvement works on their road networks. I can also confirm that this contribution will increase to \$170 million in 2016–17. Local governments can submit project proposals for funding from this source. But, as the member has stated, no such request has been forthcoming from the Shire of Kalamunda for any improvement proposals for this location. Councils also receive federal funds through programs such as Roads to Recovery; however, it is not known whether the shire has considered this avenue of funding.

I understand that the member for Forrestfield, apart from approaching me on this issue, has also had discussions with the shopping centre owners in an effort to achieve a positive outcome for his community. Indeed, the member seems to be doing the work that the shire should be doing, but it has failed to progress this matter with me or with Main Roads Western Australia. I sympathise with the member over the manner in which some of the council's elected members have approached this important issue. However, I note the good relationship at an officer level between Main Roads and its council colleagues. Notwithstanding, I can assure the member for Forrestfield that should the council provide an estimate of cost for an acceptable treatment at the Hale Road–Woolworths Drive intersection, the state will consider favourably a one-third funding contribution to enable the works to get underway.

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Armadale!

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** It is disappointing that some individually elected councillors have decided to play petty politics —

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Armadale! I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr D.C. NALDER:** It is disappointing that some individually elected councillors have decided to play petty politics instead of serving the needs of those they represent. However, it is also very fortunate that the Forrestfield community has fine and capable state and federal representatives in Nathan Morton and Hon Ken Wyatt to look after their concerns and issues.