

Submission to: The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Principal Petitioner: The Bellevue Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc.
Subject: Petition No. 039 – Robinson Road, Bellevue
Date: 8 January 2022

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Working on behalf of the local and regional communities and local businesses, the Bellevue Residents and Ratepayers Association (BRRRA) has been the lead community group attempting to address the issue of the proposed closure of Robinson Road and the issues concerning proposed changes to the wider road network local to Midland and surrounding suburbs since Tuesday 11 August 2020.

It is our experience that the Planning process is failing as decisions are being made based on selective quantifiable rules, with no regard for quantifiable and qualitative issues identified by community, and with no regard to context. In fact, it is our experience that the inclusion of the community in this process is being wilfully avoided despite overwhelming community objection and undeniable facts. Facts tabled in the Legislative Council in the form of the document accompanying this petition, entitled *Keep Robinson Road Bellevue, Open (KRRO Submission)*.

The BRRRA first discovered that the State had plans to close Robinson Road to traffic on Tuesday 11 August 2020. This information was not volunteered by the State Agencies. It was not until the community specifically asked about Robinson Road that confirmation of the intended closure was confirmed.

Following this confirmation BRRRA engaged in a communication campaign with local stakeholders, all of whom expressed shock at the news and confirmed they had not been notified of the planned closure. Public notification of the closure was made known on 14 September 2021 in the form of a media release from the Minister for Transport, Planning and Ports.

Following is a timeline of communications and actions relating to the community endeavours of having the State support the purpose of Petition No. 39.

- 11 August 2020: BRRRA meeting at Bellevue with Metronet re Bellevue Train Station.
- 30 November 2020: KRRO Submission, First Draft completed (tabled in Upper House on 2 December 2021)
- 3 December 2020: Meeting at Dumas House with Metronet, MRWA and Advisor for Minister for Transport, Planning and Ports provided with copy of KRRO Submission (*see page 6 of KRRO Submission*)
- 12 December 2020: KRRO Submission Final Draft Completed (including 3 December meeting outcomes)
  - Submission sent to ALL relevant Elected Representatives and State and Local Government Public Servants, including the Premier and Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports. (*see page 11 of KRRO Submission*)
- 16 December 2020: KRRO Submission released to public
- 25 January 2021: The Premier advised BRRRA in a letter (REF: 59-236637/CI) "*I have asked both the PTA and MRWA to continue to provide the BRRRA with up-to-date information as part of the consultation process already underway.*" This has not occurred.
- 1 February 2021: BRRRA received advice from the City of Swan "*the City has rejected the PTA application of Robinson Road closure at this time. The PTA will reapply at such time that the implications of the closure have been investigated so that this can be analysed and explained to the community prior to public advertising.*" No such community engagement has taken place.
- 28 July 2021: City of Swan Motion passed unanimously supporting the purpose of Petition 39 and adding retention of Robinson Road to the City's Advocacy Priority list
- November 2020: The following MPs of the previous Parliament publicly opposed the closure of Robinson Road:  
to January 2021:

**Liberal Party:** Zac Kirkup MLA, Donna Faragher MLC, Libby Mettam MLA.

**Labor Party:** Michelle Roberts MLA, Matthew Hughes MLA, Samantha Rowe MLC.

**The West Australia Party:** Charles Smith MLC. The Greens: Tim Clifford MLC

- 9 May 2021: PTA (stage 2) DA to Development WA
- Despite mentioning Robinson Rd 17 times, not once is the requirement to close mentioned.
  - 224 submissions were received, with the majority (217) objecting to the proposal on the basis it will require closure of the adjoining Robinson Road.
  - [ALSO] previous Application for Approval Undertake Development – Proposed Light Industry – Assembly and Commissioning Facility – Lot 15604 Elgee Road, Midland (PTA) does not mention the need to close Robinson Road
- 22 June 2021: In response to a question in Parliament from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition,
- the Minister for Transport, Planning and Ports claimed “residents met with me at a forum she gave before the election”
  - Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports dismisses community in Parliament by describing herself as “defying the doubters”
- 13 September 2021: Meeting with MRWA, Metronet and advisor to Minister for Transport, Planning and Ports to discuss Traffic Modelling that was promised at the 3rd Dec 2020 meeting
- Modelling predicts 12-minute delays, but ignores current 10 to 15 minute delays already being experienced since the most recent road network changes
  - At the direction of the PTA/Metronet, MRWA modelling does not encompass the discussed broader area (as per petition) and is limited to two intersections.
  - We were “told” by Minister’s advisor that the road would be closed because that is what the government wants.
- 14 September 2021: Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports releases Media Statement “Robinson Road will close”
- 14 September 2021: Shire of Mundaring Motion unanimously supporting the purpose of Petition 39 and adding *“(The Shire of Mundaring) Expresses its disappointment that the announcement of the road closure has been made by the Minister for Transport and Planning without any consultation with the Shire of Mundaring.”*
- 2 December 2021: Keep Robinson Road Open Petition and Keep Robinson Road, Bellevue OPEN Report tabled in the Legislative Council

BARRA has made numerous failed requests to meet with the Minister for Transport, Planning and Ports and the Premier for the purpose of ensuring they have the benefit of community information in order to be able to make properly informed decisions. Given the total lack of engagement, the blatant disregard for community concerns and the wilful avoidance of promised communications, it is unclear as to how the Minister can claim to be satisfied that she considered consultation on this matter appropriate and reasonably practicable before exercising any delegated legislative power.

We are seeking the support of the Legislative Council to ensure our petition is honoured by this government and to ensure our community is not disadvantaged as the result of the government’s determination to have its way at any cost.

We invite the Committee to attend the location being addressed by this petition and to meet with representatives of the Bellevue Residents and Ratepayers Association to learn first-hand where the issues are and how they will impact local businesses, local jobs, commute times and traffic redirection.

Kind Regards

Mark Richards

Chairperson, Bellevue Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc.