



HON MARTIN ALDRIDGE MLC
Member for the Agricultural Region
Shadow Minister for Emergency Services; Regional Health;
Road Safety; Volunteering; Regional Cities

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Via email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au

8 September 2023

Dear Committee Members

Petition No 98 – Upgrade of East Road and Wanneroo Road Intersection

I write to support the calls of the residents of the City of Wanneroo for the immediate improvement of traffic management at the intersection of East Road and Wanneroo Road. This intersection has raised legitimate safety concerns among pedestrians, motorists, and the broader community.

This petition has been supported by more than 1,100 residents and has been driven by City of Wanneroo Councillor Jordan Wright, who has worked diligently to progress this issue for several years.

While I understand the City of Wanneroo has been seeking to address this intersection as far back as 2004, the situation has become more serious following the upgrade of the Wanneroo Road and Ocean Reef Road intersection, which has since made it more difficult for motorists to turn from East Road onto Wanneroo Road.

The City also highlights challenges with pedestrian safety crossing Wanneroo Road, particularly for seniors and young people crossing to access public transport. These issues are especially serious during the morning and afternoon peak periods.

The East Road intersection is on the boundary of the Hocking and Pearsall suburbs and represents the primary entry and exit point for thousands of residents. Over the five-year period from 2017 to 2021, this intersection has seen 13 crashes, with three of which resulted in serious injuries. Further incidents near this intersection, including a severe motorcycle crash on 22 February 2023, causing extensive road closures and substantial delays, and a tragic fatality on 26 November 2022, at the intersection of Scenic Drive and Wanneroo Road, just 350 metres beyond the East Road intersection.

A road safety report carried out by Main Roads in February 2022 identified numerous problems relating to the intersection configuration, including a lack of sight distance, pedestrian and cyclist safety, and insufficient gaps in traffic flow, especially at peak times.

The City of Wanneroo has undertaken significant study of this intersection and is able to recommend solutions, should funding be made available. I note that several proposed solutions have been identified by the principal petitioner in his submission.

21 Binda Place
(PO Box 255)
BINDOON WA 6502
martin.aldridge@mp.wa.gov.au

P: (08) 9576 0141
F: (08) 9576 0488
Free: 1800 336 905

Funding has been sought through the Blackspot program, and these issues have been raised with Main Roads WA at regular intervals. On 6 September 2022, Premier Mark McGowan wrote to the City, stating:

"I am advised that Main Roads is currently preparing documentation to nominate this intersection for Black Spot Funding. I will ensure they keep you updated on progress."

It is disappointing and frustrating for the community that despite assurances from the State Government, and the obvious need for improvements, no funding has been forthcoming to allow the City of Wanneroo to deliver the necessary upgrades in a timely manner.

As you will be aware, 2022 marked the highest number of road fatalities in WA since 2016, and 2023 has proven to be another challenging year, with 105 fatalities recorded to date. Notably, 51 of these tragedies occurred in the metropolitan region, representing the worst year since 2014.

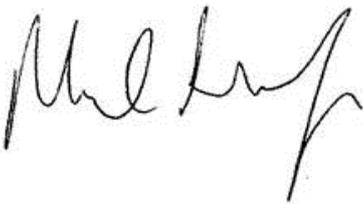
Research consistently underscores intersections as hotspots for collisions, injuries, and fatalities. Enhancing the safety of this risky intersection holds the potential to not only mitigate road risks but also alleviate traffic congestion and bolster mobility through intersection design that caters to all road users, including pedestrians.

The City of Wanneroo is seeking the following outcomes:

1. Secure blackspot funding for the full scope of the project from the State Government for this upgrade.
2. Provide a timeframe as to when the upgrade will occur within the next five years.
3. Progress with a design and release to the public for consultation/feedback.

In conclusion, I thank you for considering the request to upgrade the East Road and Wanneroo Road intersection and I strongly encourage the committee to consider the merits of this petition.

Yours sincerely



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