

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Minister's comments welcome

I was pleased to see comments from the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure last week which stated that the State Government had no intention of walking away from the Bunbury Waterfront Project following the recent special electors meeting.

Her comments dispelled the claim that the project was 'dead' as a result of the opposition expressed over certain elements of the plan.

I believe there is a critical need to make amendments to the Eastside Precinct plans by retaining more public open space and bringing it in line with our City Vision.

However that should not risk the project altogether nor force the State Government to withdraw its funding pledge.

Revitalising our waterfront is an exciting project and one I have long pushed for.

Yet in offering that support, it is vital that community views become the driver of this development to ensure it is steered in a direction that will enhance the lifestyle this great city offers for families, tourists and recreationalists.

Australind track upgrades

I attended a meeting with the Public Transport Authority last week concerning a looming plan to upgrade 75km of the train line used by the Australind passenger train.

This is a welcome investment, however, there will be a nine-month interruption of the morning service which people must be aware of.

This is not ideal and will undoubtedly cause some inconvenience, however, I believe it is important that this line be upgraded for the future needs of the Australind and industry freight.

The Authority have assured me that they will go out of their way to assist the Australind travellers by providing other options such as additional coach services.

However should you have any concerns or complaints, feel free to contact my office and I will attempt to resolve them.

Withers Underground Power

I last week made a request to the State Government to step in and cease progression of the Withers Underground Power project to heed the concerns of the people.

I made this call after receiving confirmation from the City of Bunbury Council that they would not act on the 671-signature petition which asked for a resurvey of landowners impacted by the Withers Underground Power project.

The project will cost an average of \$3000 to Withers, Usher and Glen Padden landowners and hundreds felt they were not given an adequate or transparent opportunity to register their view on the project.

I have therefore asked the Energy and Local Government Ministers to step in a halt the project until a true level of support for the project can be ascertained.

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