

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Petition ignored

I take this opportunity to express my disappointment that the City of Bunbury Council appears to have ignored the community dissent over the Withers Underground Power project.

For those of you who are not aware, a 671-signature petition was presented to Council on June 17.

That petition asked Council to halt the project until more transparent public consultation could be undertaken and I organised it after receiving numerous calls from concerned landowners.

The immense response to the petition complemented a strong turnout of more than 300 people at a public meeting I held on Thursday evening, May 29.

Both were clear indicators of the strong mass of concern about this project and the poor level of public awareness about the individual cost to the affected property owners.

However after the petition was presented to council, they chose to simply accept the petition but take no action.

The project now looks set to continue to progress despite the many unanswered questions and fear from home-owners about how they will afford pay for it.

Helping hand for patients

It was with much delight that the Liberal Party's plan to revitalise the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme was announced in Bunbury on Monday.

I believe this plan offers a desperately-needed injection of "common sense" into the State's current, dysfunctional scheme.

In doing that it would ease much of the financial burden suffered by South West patients who travel to Perth for much-needed treatment.

Opposition Leader Troy Buswell and Shadow Health Minister Dr Kim Hames came to Bunbury to reveal the detail and while here, I took the opportunity to introduce them to residents who had suffered under the current system.

I have spoken to countless Bunbury people, many of them elderly, who have failed to get assistance for medical travel and accommodation when they so urgently need it.

Under the Liberal plan, the scheme would be boosted by \$30 million over four years – which is a 50 per cent increase.

The level of financial assistance to patients would be increased, the scheme would be simplified and it would be better promoted to patients to ensure they were aware of it.

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