



15 March 2011

Caltex Response To Local Safety Not Good Enough

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said Caltex's written response to his queries about community safety at their Service Station on the corner of High Road and Leach Avenue in Riverton was unsatisfactory.

"Their letter to me is simply a refusal to accept responsibility for their actions and an attempt to hide behind their complex corporate structure," said Dr Nahan.

"It is not good enough for them to blame their Woolworths arm of Caltex Woolworths for the price setting that causes the traffic jams. Caltex Woolworths is a joint venture and they are jointly responsible for the problem."

Dr Nahan said their actions in offering cheaper fuel at their site without having the necessary facilities in place to deal with the increased customers was irresponsible.

"Caltex Woolworths is responsible for the problem. They are providing inadequate facilities to handle the number of customers coming to their service station. This is leading to excessive congestion on their site with the flow-on effect moving on to public roads," said Dr Nahan.

"I am aware that the City of Canning has instigated a traffic study as promised to the community. Caltex Woolworths should also act as a good corporate citizen, accept their responsibility and commit to fixing their part of the congestion."

Dr Nahan said while he welcomed Caltex Woolworth's proposal to provide signage or handouts at the checkout to remind drivers of their obligation to comply with road rules and to not block entrances or intersections, it is not enough, given that people's safety is at risk.

"There is no doubt that someone will be hurt at that intersection because of the traffic chaos caused by the vehicles queuing for cheaper fuel. Caltex Woolworths has to stand up and be counted in fixing this problem that they have contributed to," said Dr Nahan.

"We all want access to cheaper fuel but in offering their discounted fuel, they are changing the flow pattern of traffic but they have made no adjustments to the logistics at their site to deal with the additional volume of traffic wanting that fuel."

"Caltex Woolworths has an obligation under its Health and Safety Policy to operate in a way that will not adversely affect the health and safety of its neighbours, customers or the public. They cannot continue to abrogate that corporate responsibility to the local community at this site."

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