

Response to rail rankles residents

NEED MORE THAN 20 YEARS AWAY, SAYS MLC

Lucy Jarvis

A LETTER from a State politician, dismissing the need for rail to Yanchep for at least a decade, has rankled residents.

At the January 19 Two Rocks Yanchep Residents' Association meeting, secretary Lorraine Jackson said North Metropolitan MLC Michael Mischin suggested the need for a rail extension was more than 20 years away.

The association wrote to several politicians last year calling for the rail extension, and Ms Jackson highlighted Mr Mischin's letter among the responses that were received.

"It stinks," she said.

In his letter, Mr Mischin said planning for the Yanchep extension was progressing despite the timeline being modified "due to conflicting public transport priorities".

"The decision to delay the Yanchep line from its original 2020 schedule was made on patronage grounds," he said.

"Although I accept completely that the population of the general Yanchep/Two Rocks area is increasing rapidly, I cannot accept that we need to build costly infrastructure right now to service a potential situation that is still over 20 years away.

"Doing so would divert scarce resources away from projects that do have an immediate need (like the airport link project)."

Mr Mischin, who is also the Attorney General and Commerce Minister, said the government was committed to extending the rail when it was "both affordable and cost efficient" and he foresaw construction starting in about 2024 or 2025.

"Depending on demand, and the State's finances, the rail link could be started earlier or later than this," he said.

Vice-chairwoman Debbie Lanario said the MP "obviously hasn't been on Marmion Avenue" during the morning traffic.

"It's bumper to bumper," she said.

Ms Jackson also raised concerns about developers in the area advertising that there would be rail to Yanchep.

"It's false advertising, it's misleading and we need to be saying something," she said.

Ms Lanario said it was misleading for people buying in the area who might expect rail to be provided in the near future.

City of Wanneroo planning and sustainability director Philip St John said the City did not have any requirements relating to

the accuracy of information on signs.

"False or misleading information is a matter for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission," he said.

The *Times* contacted Mr Mischin for further comment, but did not receive a response before deadline.

■ The next TRYRA meeting will be on February 23, from 7.30pm at Capricorn Community House in Yanchep.



Mischin

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