

News Release

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Tony Piccolo MP

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Dispute results in residents “BYO” Shelter

A funding dispute between Department of Transport and the City of Playford has left residents of Munno Para without shelter at the bus interchange at their local railway station.

Light MP Mr Tony Piccolo wrote to the Transport Minister the Hon Patrick Conlon MP and the CEO of the City of Playford Mr Tim Jackson after been alerted to the issue by local resident Mr Andrew Murphy.

Mr Piccolo said that Mr Murphy had advised him that about ten weeks ago the small bus shelter within the car park on the eastern side of the station was damaged and subsequently Council workmen attended and removed the complete structure from the site, but did not replace it.

Mr Murphy said he sent an email message to the council seeking an update of the progress of having the bus shelter replaced and about six weeks ago received a telephone call from a council employee stating that the structure was not going to be replaced.

In an email to Mr Piccolo, Mr Murphy said the reason given by the Council was that there is apparently some sort of disagreement between the council and the government department as to the funding arrangements for the replacement of the shelter.

While Mr Murphy has some sympathy for the council's position, he said the stand off “does nothing to assist those members of our community who have to stand patiently in a dusty unsealed car park waiting in the heat (and rain during winter) for the bus to arrive or a train to arrive so they can continue their journey.”

“ I feel particularly for those elderly members or the young mothers with young children in prams and the like who are forced to stand and wait in these conditions even if it is only for a short time before the bus arrives.” said Mr Murphy.

Mr Piccolo said that he had since received a response from the Minister’s Office indicating that the work was programmed for 2011 to coincide with the station upgrade in readiness for the new super school in the locality.

Mr Piccolo said he would continue to lobby the Minister to see if the works can be brought forward.

“Given that the works are scheduled for 2011 I hope I can convince the Minister to bring them forward, or get the parties to come to a commonsense compromise” said Mr Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo said that he was “bitterly disappointed” by the lack of response from the City of Playford, despite contacting them twice.

Mr Piccolo said there is a widespread view in the Munno Para community that the City of Playford shows scant regard for the needs of residents in the area.

“Given the lack of response to this and other issues, I can fully understand why residents would hold this view” said Mr Piccolo.

Mr Piccolo said it appears that works promised by the City of Playford a year ago have yet to be completed.

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Mr Murphy can be contacted on 0407730153