

Councillor ABRAHAMSThank you, Madam Chair. I rise to speak on one matter. There is an urgent need for traffic light project at the corner of Montague Road and Jane Street to be reinstated and funded immediately. I am sure every Councillor will remember the parents of the West End State School who addressed this Chamber and advised us of the hazard of the schoolchildren crossing that intersection. On that day, they were told funding for traffic lights was to be allocated in the 2010-11 budget and it was.

It was a promise. It was a commitment. It was a commitment on the grounds of safety.

A Councillor: By whom?

Councillor ABRAHAMSI think it was Councillor QUIRK who got up in the Council Chamber and, in his role, as Infrastructure Chair, he gave that commitment to the parents. The traffic lights were designed, all of the material was available, and the project was to start in the first week of February. We all know of the January flood and these traffic lights were deferred until funds are available. The Federal Government has said there is \$85 million available, and I am sure that Council has submitted the cost of completed projects and has funds available.

Just two weeks ago, a young woman en route to the rowing club, who lives locally, who knows all of the safety issues at that intersection, was hit by a cyclist and suffered severe bruising, abrasions, broken nose and damage to her face. Her family and the community, as that family is connected to the West End State School, are absolutely distressed as they see this as a preventable accident. The parents have given me permission to table the photo of their daughter with the injury, showing clearly a broken nose, showing severe bruising in her eye sockets, and I did not show all of the others because I am not wishing to be gratuitous. But I wish to stress this was an accident that was preventable.

I am now asking on behalf of my community, because I have no understanding why now, at this time, when the majority of the flood work has been done, that it is beyond the LORD MAYOR, Councillor QUIRK, who gave the promise, not to get up and say, 'Funds are available; we will bring forward the traffic lights at this intersection.' I have lobbied for four years for these traffic lights. So it was with much joy that the decision and promise was given. The grounds for deferral were

spurious at the time. They are indefensible now. Funds are available. It is a simple matter of making a submission to the Federal Government money and getting that money. It is not an issue of the resources of Council officers who have to prepare the design. It is done. It is not an issue of getting the equipment to install the lights, because the lights are available.

So, Councillor QUIRK, please, be what you should be, which is respect your promise, acknowledge this as a major safety issue, and just keep your promise to install the lights immediately.