



A new taxi rank, with security guard, is to go into Bay View Terrace opposite the Continental Hotel.

\$250,000 'carrot'

A \$250,000 reward might just be the "carrot" needed to draw out vital information about the Claremont disappearances, police said last week.

The reward, the biggest ever offered by the state government, was announced by Premier Richard Court two days after Mosman Park lawyer Ciara Glennon went missing.

It is being offered for information leading to the whereabouts of Sarah Spiers and Ciara Glennon and a conviction for the murder of Jane Rimmer.

Police minister John Day said the details of the reward would be left to the police.

"It is a tool. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't," Mr Day said.

"Unfortunately, in the case of crimes like this it is very difficult to get information."

'Taxi drivers avoid Claremont'

Claremont's club and hotel patrons are now likely to find it impossible to get a taxi, according to Perth's taxi boss.

The side effect of the police investigation is that young women could be left without taxi transport after dark.

Very few taxis would now work in Claremont, because of the antagonism to them following the disappearance of three young women.

Rob Leicester, the Department of Transport's taxi unit manager, told a meeting in Claremont on Thursday that taxis suffered a 30 to 40 per cent drop in business after last year's publicity.

"This incident is having a significant effect on drivers," he said.

"The feedback from drivers is that very few if any taxis will service Claremont in future.

"They really feel quite vulnerable. They will go everywhere but Claremont at the moment.

"I don't mean that to sound like a threat, but that is the reality."

Taxi drivers have felt a huge change in public attitude since stories of bogus taxis and police inquiries into the backgrounds of taxi drivers were circulated.

The problems have been heightened by speculation that the three missing women may have been looking for taxis when they disappeared.

A meeting on Thursday of Claremont's safety and security committee decided to recommend that a secure taxi rank be placed outside the Claremont Post Office in Bay View Terrace, opposite the Continental Hotel.

Work started on the rank Friday morning.

Hotel partner Barry Jones said that the hotel would monitor the rank with its security cameras and locate a concierge at the rank for crowd control.

This system, like that outside Club Bay View, would enable an orderly queue of patrons, and security men to check

inside cabs when they arrive.

The meeting was told that this arrangement encouraged taxi drivers to go to Claremont when they would otherwise stay away.

The concierge would be able to call on hotel security staff in the event of trouble.

Police at the meeting suggested that taxis be allowed to pick up passengers at only secure ranks.

Mr Leicester said such a rule would be virtually impossible to enforce.

Continental Hotel partner Barry Jones said if both passengers and drivers were provided with protection, there would be a reasonable chance of getting taxis back to Claremont.

Club Bay View owner Jon Sainken said that the secure taxi rank outside the club had improved the situation and encouraged more taxis there.

Names and addresses of passengers were taken before they got into a taxi, taxis were checked internally and

their numbers recorded.

He said that security men had tried to stop women walking away from the taxi queue.

"They get bored and wander off to Stirling Highway to find a cab," he said.

"You can't do anything to stop taxis picking up passengers except at the rank."

Taxi drivers should be proud of their photo identification cards and display them.

He said the club security staff did not have a lot of authority.

Fast-track

They could not force patrons to wait until a dog patrol or security man walked them to a car.

The recommendation of the safety committee will be put to a meeting of the Claremont Council on Monday night.

Claremont's chief executive officer, Rob Stewart, said that if the council approves the move, it could be possible to get the Minister for Transport to fast-track his approval within 24 hours.

Big security presence for silverchair gig

More than 100 security and up to 50 police will patrol McGillivray Oval during the silverchair gig next Thursday night.

Ambulance officers and the fire brigade will also be on hand.

About 12,000 people are expected to attend the concert on the oval next to the Mt Claremont Challenge Stadium.

Initiated by the University of WA Guild, the concert is being overseen by campus services and the City of Nedlands.

Parents worried about the safety of teenagers at the concert contacted Nedlands principal environment health officer Ken Raine.

"One woman rang and said she was worried about her children attending because of the situation in Claremont at the moment," said Mr Raine.

"We have specified there must be lighting and guards in the areas where people will be walking to the pick-up points."

Mr Raine said the

council had also addressed noise concerns.

"Noise predictions carried out by the Department of Environmental Protection indicate the music will be clearly heard in areas of Mt Claremont and Floreat at levels up to 61 decibels, which is similar to the background noise level in an office or big grocery store," he said.

Five bands will perform at the concert between 6 and 11pm.

Promoter Ken Knight, who ran the Big Day Out concert, is co-ordinating the event.

The concert was originally planned for Riley Oval at UWA but was moved to McGillivray because it was a better venue for a big crowd.

Free water will be available from four points, each with four taps.

"We thought McGillivray would offer us a much better venue

in regards to noise and traffic," campus services manager John Burrows said.

There would be a big unlicensed area near the stage and a licensed section farther back.

Parking costs \$5 and is off McGillivray Road.

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