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Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan fronts the media conference to announce the arrest.



Claremont victims ... Sarah Spiers, Jane Rimmer, and Ciara Glennon.

# Early clues missed

By BRET CHRISTIAN

Detectives missed three early opportunities that could have led them to the Claremont serial killer in the 1990s.

The first was clues left on the driver's licence of a 17-year-old girl abducted and raped in 1995. The second was when car upholstery samples recovered from the body of Jane Rimmer were sent to the wrong department of the Chemistry Centre in 1996; and the third was a vital clue missed in forensic examination of the body of Ciara Glennon in 1997.

The 17-year-old was abducted from Claremont's Rowe Park, in February 1995, opposite the Showgrounds subway, taken to Karrakatta Cemetery and raped. The teenager, who had left Claremont's Club Bay View and was walking to a friend's house after midnight, survived.

Her attacker had handled her driver's licence. A young girl who lived locally found it discarded in the park soon after the attack.

Some detectives investigating the Claremont murders believe the licence would have yielded the fingerprints and DNA of the attacker had they



The investigation was winding down and in danger of being shelved in 2015. The POST revealed some of the breakthrough links that had so far not led to an arrest.

been able to preserve it early. The girl who found the licence told her older sister but police were not informed at the time.

That abduction and sexual assault were investigated by the Claremont Criminal Investigation Branch and the Sex Assault Squad.

It was written off as unsolved after six weeks.

It was not until more than a year later that the Rowe Park incident was re-investigated, this time by the Macro Task force set

up to investigate the disappearance of Sarah Spiers in January 1996 and Jane Rimmer in July the same year.

The Macro detectives did something that the Claremont CIB did not.

They door-knocked the houses surrounding Rowe Park, and the victim's driver's licence was handed to them.

In the meantime, friends of the victim said she was distressed because she worried that her attacker may have kept her

licence which contained her name and address.

But while some Macro officers thought there was an obvious link between the Rowe Park crime and the later abductions, senior Macro officers discounted any link.

They said repeatedly that it was a "different MO" [modus operandi].

This was at the time when no bodies had been recovered, so it is hard to see how an MO could be determined.

They believed that the "serial killer" victims must have got willingly into a car, perhaps a taxi or a vehicle driven by a person in authority such as a police officer.

The Rowe Park incident was allegedly a "blitz attack", with the teen disabled and forced into a vehicle.

Senior Macro officers became convinced that they had their man in Cottesloe public servant Lance Williams. He has now been absolutely eliminated by DNA.

The Rowe Park attack was again filed as unsolved until 2008.

Claremont CIB no longer exists. Its culture in the early 1990s became the focus of harsh criticism by the 2004 Kennedy Royal Commission into police corruption, Commissioner Kennedy describing the actions of some officers there as "distressing".

A second opportunity was missed when car upholstery samples recovered with adhesive tape from the body of Jane Rimmer were sent to the wrong department of the Chemistry Centre in 1996.

Macro assumed that the samples had been lost, although the Schramm external review said that the fibres were likely to

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# Take Roe 8 to poll: Norris

By DAVID HUDLESTON

The Barnett government should take the controversial Roe 8 freight link to the March election rather than start building it now, according to Mosman Park mayor Ron Norris.

"I remain concerned that the government could push ahead with the project, ignoring both the environmental and economic issues," he said from London last week.

"With the March election imminent, I have no idea why anyone would commit to start a project when they have no idea

how they are going to finish it.

"If, as everyone seems to think, there is a change of government in March, then the damage perpetrated in the next few months will somehow have to be undone, most probably at huge cost.

"I think everyone would accept the outcome if the government went to the election with the Roe 8 project as an issue.

"Of course, this is all very remote from the western suburbs at the moment, but if it proceeds it could have a huge adverse impact on Curtin Avenue."

About 300 trucks a day use Curtin Avenue, but if the Barnett government's preferred Perth Freight Link is built, that number would triple to 900 a day.

Mr Norris, who is in the UK on holidays, was speaking after attending a protest with other mayors organised by protest group Save Beelihar Wetlands after it lost its bid to challenge state environmental approval

for the road in the High Court.

The protest was the culmination of weeks of protesting at the site, where many people have been arrested and issued with move-on notices.

Roe 8 will be WA's first toll road.

The state government has not yet announced the route for the rest of the \$1.9billion Perth Freight Link project, connecting Roe Highway to Fremantle port.

Save Beelihar Wetlands is now pursuing a legal challenge in the Federal Court over Commonwealth environmental approval.

WA Environment Minister Albert Jacob says land clearing may be complete by the March state election.

At Mosman Park's December council meeting, Victoria Street resident Max Ball sought an assurance from the council that

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Each week 51,990 copies of the POST are distributed, reaching every household and business in the western suburbs.  
These suburbs are shown on the map on page 2. Extra copies are delivered to other selected riverside suburbs.



A big police presence was on hand outside Premier Colin Barnett's electorate office as Roe 8 protesters took to the streets of Cottesloe to make their displeasure known. Photo: Paul McGovern

# Early clues missed

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vital clues if tested (POST December 11, 2004). The samples were not found until the Chem Centre moved to Bentley in 2011. Tests then revealed breakthrough clues about a motor vehicle.

Another blunder concerned forensic examination of the body of Ciara Glennon, found at Eglinton north of Perth two weeks after she disappeared from Claremont in March 1997. A critical item from her body was overlooked at the time and not tested until years after the Schramm review of 2004, an international and interstate external review forced on local police after the broadcast of He Who Waits, an episode of the ABC's Australian Story.

The item from Ciara Glennon was then taken to the United Kingdom for testing, these tests revealing the breakthrough clue.

Despite the Schramm review identifying numerous promising forensic opportunities, some reluctant senior police kept insisting that the Claremont murders were the work of the man they referred to as LKW – Lance Kenneth Williams.

The investigation into the Claremont murders was winding down and in danger of being shelved in 2015. The POST revealed in October and November some of the breakthrough links that had so far not led to an arrest.

Renewed interest in the murders led to more resources and expert personnel being thrown at the case that gripped the nation over Christmas.

# Let people vote on Roe 8: Norris

• From page 1

ratepayers' funds would not be used in the freight link challenge. Mr Ball was concerned after seeing Mr Norris on television news reports about the protest. "The Roe 8 freight link is rapidly moving into a political argument and

it is going to be further politicised over the next few months," Mr Ball said. "Between now and March, the Roe 8 freight link will be more and more subject to political issues and I think it is not appropriate for Mosman Park to be involved." Deputy mayor Jenna Ledgerwood read the council's previous motions

from August 2015 and October this year, which recorded the council's concerns about the freight link's adverse impact on the western suburbs and a request to local MP and Premier Colin Barnett for a cost-benefit analysis of alternative routes. "There is no talk of any funding for any challenge," she said.

# Mosman call for crime posse

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a ranger roaming the streets here because I doubt that rangers are very useful." Deputy mayor Jenna Ledgerwood said the council was in regular contact with the Cottesloe police. "We do need to expand that because if we don't stop it down at the front of our suburb it would gradually move back in," she said. "I don't say this is anything new but I do think it is on the increase." CEO Mark Goodlet said the council had used surveillance cameras to monitor illegal dumping and antisocial behaviour, had provided police with a map of hot spots and was consulting with police, the Department of Housing and Belmont council about CCTV options. "There are a small number of homeless people in Mosman Park and our rangers have been engaging with them to try to put them in touch with the

Salvation Army and give them specific help to get them off the street," he said. "We have liaised with the Water Corporation where the homeless persons are apparently residing on their land. "We have been to the Department of Housing, who work with our rangers and police with problematic people on their premises. "We have also been doing extra proactive patrolling." He said the police had stepped up their patrols, which were now more frequent at night, while the Housing Authority had an intensive management program in place for tenants. He said residents could also take advantage of the security incentive program the council recently introduced and he encouraged residents to join Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Goodlet said the council was working with the Housing Authority to see if a different model could be applied to public tenants in problem areas.

Resident Tony Ruse asked whether the council's actions had been prompted by the burglaries or social housing issues. Ms Ledgerwood said it was prompted by a delegation of residents complaining about behaviour in public housing in Wellington Street. She said only a few tenants were involved in antisocial behaviour, with many problems caused by visitors. "Not all of these people are criminals, but there are one or two whose friends are coming from other suburbs and they have been creating problems within the neighbourhood," she said. Ms Ledgerwood said police had put a lot of work into curtailing that behaviour. "The problem is now everywhere, it is not just Mosman Park," she said. North ward councillor said police had given the council a special response number which residents could call to report crime.

## Fix it quickly

### Renovating or repairing your home?

The POST each week lists tradesmen who provide every household service, from unblocking drains to unravelling the mysteries of your new flat-screen television. They will do your books, clean or paint your house, landscape the garden, do handyman repairs or build an entire house. Readers tell us they have carried out major extensions and renovations just by using the POST trades and services directory near the back of the newspaper. The directory is also available on the Internet at [postnewspapers.com.au](http://postnewspapers.com.au) To advertise email [advertising@postnewspapers.com.au](mailto:advertising@postnewspapers.com.au) Support POST advertisers – they make your free local newspaper possible.

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