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September 26, 2020

# GUILTY



## Ciara nails Edwards

By BRET CHRISTIAN

**Ciara Glennon's last defiant act towards her murderer scratched out the one piece of evidence that ensures Bradley Robert Edwards probably never walks free again.**

Her obstinate refusal to give up meant that her killer was caught and convicted of two murders.

Fierce and tenacious is how the family and friends described the diminutive 1.52cm (five-foot) lawyer, who took on her much taller and heavier armed murderer, a Telstra technician.

Callously, Edwards stabbed her left arm to the bone twice, cut her throat and slashed her face.

But the tiny fragment of his DNA lodged under her torn left thumbnail led directly to his day of shame in court on Thursday.

Edwards hung his head after Justice Hall told him to stand while he was read the guilty verdicts for the wilful murders of Jane Rimmer and Ciara Glennon.

Earlier, he shook his head three or four times when Justice Hall reached points in his verdict where he concluded Edwards used his work vehicle to abduct Jane in 1996 and Ciara in 1997 from the streets of Claremont, nine months apart.

The judge said that DNA, fibre and similarities in the victims and their abductions from Claremont proved both were murdered by the same man.

He found Edwards not guilty of the wilful murder of Sarah Spiers in January that year.

He said the propensity evidence made it likely that Edwards murdered Sarah, but the evidence did not prove this beyond reasonable doubt.

No physical evidence was found connecting that murder to anyone. Ms Spiers's body has not been found.

Sarah's parents Don and Carol Spiers looked bewildered, then ashen-faced, when they realised nobody had been held responsible for their 18-year-old daughter's death.

They were hugged by the prosecutor Carmel Barbagallo after the judge had left the court.

Surviving victims of Edwards and their families were heav-



Telstra technician Bradley Robert Edwards in 2005.



Ciara Glennon



Jane Rimmer

**One brave survivor wiped away tears after Thursday's verdicts.**

ily represented in court on Thursday morning when Justice Hall read a six-page summary of his verdict.

They had been present for much of the trial that spanned seven months and heard from 240 witnesses.

Jane's elderly mother Jeni Rimmer, who was present on the first day of the trial, was in court to finally face Edwards as her daughter's murderer. Her husband Trevor died in 2008.

One brave survivor wiped away tears after Thursday's verdicts.

She had been aged 17 in February 1995 when Edwards abducted her from Rowe Park in Claremont, gagged, hooded and tied her before taking her in his Telecom van to Karrakatta Cemetery where he twice sexually assaulted her.

She was a regular presence in the public gallery during the trial.

Edwards had not once looked at her or at the courtroom corner of pain where the victims and their families watched proceedings.

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## Garden variety murderer

**The scariest visible quality of Bradley Robert Edwards is his ordinariness.**

He does not have a bolt through his neck like a character in a horror movie. His knuckles don't drag on the ground.

He looks ordinary. He has a sense of humour, laughs easily and can be engaging.

He once lived, worked and played in the community, even received awards for community service at the local athletics club.

We saw his relaxed, jocular side via video link from jail before an unscheduled court hearing in March, a big contrast to the rigid face he presented over seven months of court hearings.

"Garden variety, average," was one local's recollection of a teenaged Bradley Edwards from his life at the family home in Gay Street, Huntingdale, near Gosnells.

He still lived in the suburb as a married man in the mid-1990s when the Claremont serial killings began.

Female neighbours and acquaintances recalled this week how, at the height of the fear from the murders, they reassured each other that they were safe because they lived so far from Claremont.

They did not connect him at the time with an earlier spate of thefts of women's bras and underwear from local clotheslines.

Edwards was born in Merredin in 1968, the first child of Bruce and Kaye, who lived in a caravan.

Bruce was a Telecom phone installer who roamed the southwest of WA with his growing family, Bradley eventually the eldest of three children.

Bruce became a real estate agent and the family settled on a semi-rural holding in Huntingdale. Bradley attended Huntingdale primary and Gosnells high schools.

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# Desk assault justice 'could have saved lives'

An early assault victim of serial killer Bradley Robert Edwards believes history would have been different had her case been treated with the seriousness it deserved.

Wendy Davis reveals for the first time her anger at what happened, in an interview with local 60 Minutes reporter Liam Bartlett to be aired on Sunday.

Ms Davis was a 40-year-old palliative care social worker at her desk in a quiet part of

Hollywood Hospital in May 1990 when on-duty Telecom technician Bradley Edwards jumped her from behind.

He was dragging her on her swivel chair towards deserted hospital toilets when she managed to kick him and break free.

It was what happened after a hospital security guard called police that has also haunted her ever since.

Police charged Edwards with common assault, the least serious crime, even though he had told a

security guard that he intended to take her into the toilets.

A magistrate sentenced him to two years parole and, although he was not charged with deprivation of liberty or attempted sexual assault, ordered him to undertake an eight-month sex offender treatment program.

Edwards also kept his job, and was soon promoted, even though he had attacked one of the telco's clients.

Ms Davis, who now lives interstate, was horrified when she

found out in 2016 that Edwards had been charged with rape and the three Claremont murders in the mid-1990s.

She has remained traumatised and angry ever since with police and with Telstra, Telecom's successor, and been re-traumatised by the arrest and travelling to Perth to give evidence at Edwards' trial.

She believes Edwards' life would have taken a different course if he had been treated "appropriately" when caught

back in 1990, including being charged with a more serious offence, jailed and losing his job.

■ The 60 Minutes episode will be broadcast on Channel 9 at 8.30pm on Sunday.

The POST's coverage of the serial killer saga will feature on the episode.

The POST has been or is scheduled to be featured on other national broadcasts, including the ABC's 7.30, ABC's News 24 and Australian Story, as well as SBS News and Sky News.

## Tears at verdict

Lee Rimmer blew Nicki Hide a kiss before she sat down in the public gallery.

The queue to get one of the 128 seats in the room started at 4am on Thursday.

On Wednesday Ms Hide, an independent victims' advocate, made a last-ditch attempt to get authorities to abide by Ms Rimmer's wishes to have Ms Hide next to her when Justice Stephen Hall delivered his verdicts.

When the two guilty verdicts and one not-guilty verdict was announced, Ms Hide was at the back of the room.

She and others wept when Justice Hall said Edwards was not guilty of Sarah Spiers' murder.

Others were stony-faced; some shook their heads.

There were sighs when the guilty verdicts were announced.



Determined ... WA Police Commissioner Chris Dawson addresses the media after yesterday's verdict. Photo: Paul McGovern

## We will never give up on Sarah: Dawson

WA Police will never stop looking for Sarah Spiers or her killer, WA Police Commissioner Chris Dawson has pledged.

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Hall found Bradley Edwards guilty of the murders of Jane Rimmer and Ciara Glennon but not guilty of murdering Sarah Spiers, whose body has never been found.

Mr Dawson said they were innocent young women who never got to fulfil their hopes and dreams.

"Bradley Edwards can now be called for what he is, a brutal rapist and a murderer," Mr Dawson told reporters on the court steps on Thursday morning.

"The investigation into the murder of Sarah Spiers remains open.

"We will never give up trying to locate Sarah and I've conveyed that to Don and Carol Spiers today and to Amanda.

"Sarah and her family deserve justice.

"I do note amongst his honour Judge Hall's comments in respect of the acquittal of the charge of murdering Sarah Spiers, and I'll directly quote: 'the propensity evidence makes it more likely that the accused was the killer of Ms Spiers but it cannot prove it beyond reasonable doubt in the absence of any other evidence as to the identity of her killer.'"

Lee Rimmer, Jane's sister, told the media pack that at one point the families were not confident Edwards would be convicted of the murders.

"Then we got what we wanted ... we have to keep working for the Spiers family," she said.

"Everyone gave each other a hug when we were inside, it's very sad but glad we got the result for the other two.

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CLAREMONT SERIAL KILLINGS VERDICT

# Impossible to link screams to Sarah

**It is only reasonable to conclude that Sarah Spiers is dead, but how she was abducted and killed is impossible to say, wrote Justice Stephen Hall.**

The Supreme Court judge's decision acquitted Bradley Robert Edwards of murdering Ms Spiers, thought to have been the first victim of the Claremont serial killings.

Sarah was last seen outside a phone booth on the morning of January 27, 1996, on the corner of Stirling Highway and Stirling Road in Claremont.

Unlike Jane Rimmer and Ciara Glennon, who the prosecution successfully argued were murdered by Edwards, the body of 18-year-old Sarah has never been found.

This fact meant that forensic evidence relied upon to convict in relation to Ms Rimmer and Ms Glennon, such as car fibres and DNA, were non-existent in her case.

The prosecution relied on a series of screams heard by Mosman Park residents on the night she disappeared, as well as a car sighted by a mechanic in the early hours of the morning in Monument Street.

"The evidence does not present a consistent picture and it does not point clearly to Ms Spiers being the source of the screams," Justice Hall said.

Sarah was a country girl who boarded at Mosman Park's Iona Presentation College.

She called a taxi at 2.06am after partying with friends in Claremont and asked to be taken to Mosman Park, but when taxi-driver Jaroslav Krupnik

arrived a few minutes later she had vanished.

Lingering in the minds of all who attended the trial is that it may have been only a matter of seconds that has denied her family of knowledge of her killer's identity.

Mark Laidman, who was driving home with friends, testified that he saw Sarah leaning against a bollard.

As the car he was in accelerated through the intersection he noticed the car behind him had not followed them through.

But Justice Hall said: "Even if that car did stop near Ms Spiers, it does not follow that it was the car in which she was abducted."

In her closing address prosecutor Carmel Barbagallo submitted that the evidence of a Mosman Park mechanic, Wayne Stewart, was critical in identifying Edwards as her murderer.

In the early hours of the morning Mr Stewart was awoken by his fiancée, who told him: "There's something going on outside. I heard a - a loud scream - a woman scream."

Mr Stewart walked to the door of his Fairlight Street flat and looked out to Monument Street.

"When he was unlocking the balcony door he heard a woman scream very loudly," Justice Hall wrote in his judgment.

He heard two car doors slam and saw a car outside the Monument Street phone booth.

Mr Stewart said he saw a car that he believed to be a Toyota Corona because of the structure of the tail-light; the prosecution said his description was similar to that of the Toyota Camry



**No closure ...** Don and Carol Spiers leave court on Thursday after learning that Edwards had been found not guilty of their daughter Sarah's murder. Photo: Paul McGovern

Edwards drove at the time.

In assessing this evidence, Justice Hall said: "The fact that ... Mr Stewart [and his fiancée] heard two sounds of a door closing is at least consistent with an innocent explanation, such as the occupant of the car using the public telephone, as it is with any explanation advanced by the prosecution."

Turning to the screams, he said the evidence of witnesses was not consistent with regard to the date they occurred or the direction from which they came.

One of those witnesses was Judith Borrett, who told the court that "blood-curdling" screams woke her that night.

"Whilst it is possible that the screams were Ms Spiers, it is not possible to draw a firm conclusion in that regard," Justice Hall wrote.

"The evidence does not present a consistent picture and it does not point clearly to Ms Spiers being the source of the screams."

The judge said the significance of Mr Stewart's evidence depended on the car he saw being the source of the screams, a proposition that he decided was not well-supported.

There was a danger that the two things might be unrelated, the screams and the presence of the car seeming to be so merely because they were heard and seen close in time to each other.

He wrote that the observations of Mr Stewart were from some distance, at night, and related almost entirely to the car's rear lights.

At best, he wrote, Mr Stewart could say that the shape and position of those rear lights looked like a cream or white coloured Toyota Corona stationwagon.

"This description is clearly not sufficient to support a conclusion that the vehicle was a white Toyota Camry stationwagon (and) far less that it was the work vehicle allocated to the accused at the time."

# Police rule out apology

**There will be no police apology to Norma Williams and Peter Weygers.**

Norma's late son Lance and Mr Weygers, a former Claremont mayor, were put under the police microscope for years.

But on Thursday afternoon Commissioner Chris Dawson said: "It's not for me to express an apology to any individual."

"Police will never not investigate people ... we are duty-bound. "If anyone has a grievance they can raise it directly with me."

Mr Dawson said he appreciated the focus on Mr Williams caused him and his family anguish.

"Mr Williams, we now know, was innocent," he said.

"We didn't want to cause any distress to that family."

Mr Dawson hailed the character of Ciara Glennon.

"She fought for her life," he said. "As Justice Hall found, the [DNA] find under her fingernail was vital."

"I never had the honour to meet her; she was renowned for her character."

Mr Dawson would not echo a call from Premier Mark McGowan to Edwards to reveal where Sarah Spiers was buried.

"I've got to be careful," he said.

"We will want to speak with Bradley further."

Mr Dawson paid tribute to police Family Liaison Officers who comforted the victims' families; the 700-plus officers who helped investigate the murders; and the Glennon family's fundraising to help pay for DNA forensic science facilities.

**■ Shamed Weygers wants police probed, page 7**



# Claremont Ahead

with **Mayor Jock Barker**



TOWN OF CLAREMONT  
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**CLAREMONT NEWS SEPTEMBER 2020**

Dear Claremont resident,

With the school holidays fast approaching, it's fantastic to see a range of activities and events now available for the community to come together again. The Town's School Holiday program at the Community Hub and Library offers everything from arts and craft to mindfulness for kids, and if you're looking for something more active, don't miss The Great Claremont Treasure Hunt through the Town Centre.

It is important that we continue to offer ways of bringing the community together and we have some great facilities in the Town for families to enjoy the warmer spring weather, such as the Splash Pad at the Aquatic Centre. I encourage everyone to keep an eye on our website and social media to be updated with activities and hope to see you out and about.



### The race for the treasure is on!

Join the Great Claremont Treasure Hunt through the Claremont Town Centre on the 6th and 7th of October. Collect a Treasure Map from Toyworld (Bayview Tce), follow the directions to collect a pirate stamp from participating businesses and locate the treasure at the final destination point! Children are encouraged to come dressed as a pirate for the event. For more information, visit the Town's website.

### Spring Farm Fair hits the Showgrounds

Claremont Showground will come alive between September 26 and 30 for the Spring Farm Fair - a wonderland for families and young children to interact with farm animals, learn more about agriculture and farming in WA, and enjoy some great food. Tickets are available online with two sessions per day available for up to 5000 per session. Temporary parking restrictions will be



in place for the duration of the fair across the Town Centre and parking will be limited.

### Watch for QFly in your Green Waste

The Town's green waste bulk verge collection has come around again with the first area collection starting 28 September. The collection will remove branches and cuttings up to 1.5m in length and bags (available from council administration) of leaves and small vegetation.

Help to eradicate the Queensland Fruit Fly (QFly) by stripping all branches of QFly host fruit before being left out for verge collection. To check your property's collection date, visit the Waste Services section on the Town's website.

*Jock Barker*  
Mayor Jock Barker





# Burger Boys accepted as key witnesses

**Justice Hall accepted that two young men known as The Burger Boys are likely to have seen Ciara Glennon in Stirling Highway, Claremont, and the car in which she was abducted.**

The judge said their evidence was convincing and reliable.

The pair were the most significant eyewitnesses in that they described in detail seeing Ciara at Edwards' car seconds before he abducted her, later to murder her.

Edwards had a work-issue white Holden Commodore VS stationwagon at the times of the murders of Ciara and Jane Rimmer.

Troy Bond and Brandon Gray described the car, which the judge said was driven by Edwards, and said it slowed right down behind Ciara as she was walking home.

The judge concluded that the two friends, in their early 20s, were sitting with a third friend at the bus stop outside Hungry Jack's when they saw Ciara walking towards Mosman Park on the footpath on the other side of the road.

It was after midnight on March 15, 1997. The men had been drinking at the Continental Hotel in Claremont and were eating hamburgers.

"They saw a woman fitting the description of Ms Glennon walking along Stirling Highway on the other side of the road," the judge said.

"Mr Gray called out, in effect telling Ms Glennon not to hitchhike, but she made a dismissive hand motion.

"Mr Gray saw a white VS or VR

Commodore pass by, travelling in the same direction, and stop further along the road at about the point that Ms Glennon would have reached.

"Mr Bond also saw the vehicle and described it as a white VS Commodore.

"He saw a figure, which must have been the woman he had seen walking past, leaning into the vehicle.

"Although both Mr Bond and Mr Gray had been drinking that evening, they had a much better opportunity to observe the woman and the car than any of the other witnesses."

Mr Gray described details of the car that identified it as a VS Commodore.

"They impressed me as honest witnesses who gave their evidence in simple and clear terms, without exaggeration or embellishment," the judge said.

"Their descriptions and the time of their observations enable me to conclude that the woman they saw was Ms Glennon.

"Fibre evidence found on the bodies of Ciara and Jane matched the unique fibres in the same model Holden.

"I conclude that the woman seen by Mr Bond and Mr Gray was Ms Glennon, and that as she was walking along Stirling Highway, a white VS Commodore stationwagon stopped in her near vicinity.

"Given the absence of any reliable sighting of Ms Glennon after this point, I conclude that it is likely that she was taken from the area in the car seen by Mr Bond and Mr Gray."



Ciara Glennon's sister Denise, left, leaves court with her parents, Denis and Una, after hearing Edwards convicted of Ciara's wilful murder.



Jeni Rimmer, seated, mother of Jane, leaves court after hearing the verdict on Edwards for the wilful murder of her daughter. Photos: Billie Fairclough

# Edwards planned attacks: Judge

**The rape of a young woman at Karrakatta Cemetery in 1995 was a distinctive event that helped to identify Bradley Robert Edwards as the Claremont killer.**

This crime, which was unresolved for 14 years, was admitted by Edwards on the eve of his murder trial.

In late 1995 Edwards waited in dark bushes at Claremont's Rowe Park before hooding, gagging and hog-tying the young woman, referred to as KJG.

"These are features that, together, are distinctive and are also common to the murder counts," Justice Stephen Hall wrote in his mammoth judgment.

"In the case of the Karrakatta offending the circumstances show that it was not a momentary lapse of judgment but a planned course of conduct," Justice Hall wrote.

"This is apparent from the use of the hood, gag and cord and the selection of an evidently vulnerable victim," he wrote.

The woman, now in her 40s, attended the verdict.

"It bears a number of features in addition to being an attack upon a woman unknown to the accused," Justice Hall wrote.

The offence involved violence, the victim was a young Caucasian woman who was alone and abducted after socialising in Claremont.

It also occurred in the early hours of a weekend morning between 1995 and 1997.

"The conduct also continued over an extended period. These features support a conclusion that the accused had a tendency to act in this way," the judge wrote.

In the closing statements of the defence address, defence lawyer Paul Yovich said that the

Karrakatta rape did not provide useful evidence in identifying Edwards because it could not be proven that the murders were sexually motivated.

Mr Yovich also said the Karrakatta offences proved a different propensity – that of a blitz attack rather than the luring of a victim into a car.

"If he wanted to kill her, she would be dead," Mr Yovich said in his closing address.

Justice Hall ultimately demurred, and concluded that the 1995 rape was of "significant probative value" in identifying Edwards as the murderer.

Justice Hall wrote that "the fact that Ms Rimmer and Ms Glennon were able to defend themselves is ... not necessarily inconsistent with the skills demonstrated in the Karrakatta offending."

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Authorised by Di Bain, 2/66 Kings Park Road, West Perth.



CLAREMONT SERIAL KILLINGS VERDICT

# DNA contamination debunked

Justice Hall categorically refuted the proposition that contamination was to blame for Edwards' DNA being under Ciara Glennon's fingernails.

He decided it was there because Edwards murdered Ciara. The judge provided more than 100 pages of detailed analysis on the DNA evidence that was so critical to the nine-month trial he described as "unlike any other".

Throughout the trial, defence lawyer Paul Yovich said contamination was a frequent enough occurrence at the PathWest laboratory that it could not reasonably be excluded as a possibility.

Mr Yovich said that, in particular, the DNA of Edwards was present at PathWest in a separate sample that related to the rape of an earlier victim, whose name is suppressed but who is referred to as KJG in the public judgment.

Edwards has confessed he raped KJG at Karrakatta Cemetery about two years before Ciara's murder.

Justice Hall concluded that none of the possible contamination scenarios withstood rational analysis, to which extent he agreed with the prosecution.

"The prosecution submits that it would be the most unlikely of coincidences if the DNA of [Edwards] from an abduction of a young woman in Claremont happened only to contaminate a sample from another young woman abducted in similar circumstances," he wrote.

"I have taken this into account."

Justice Hall agreed with the prosecution case, substantiated



Justice Stephen Hall

earlier this year by expert witness Dr Jonathon Whittaker, that if contamination had occurred then the DNA recovered from the Karrakatta rape victim would also have appeared in the critical sample taken from Ciara Glennon.

"None of KJG's DNA was found ... in the sample," he wrote, and he described the DNA evidence as "compelling".

"It is inconceivable that any such contamination would have been selective, that is, that the DNA of [Edwards] would be transferred and the DNA of KJG would not," he wrote.

"The possibility of contamination from the original [KJG] exhibits must, in my view, be discounted."

DNA extracted from Edwards' earlier victim, who he admitted before the murder trial he abducted and raped at Karrakatta, was stored at the PathWest laboratory alongside samples from Ciara's body.

Throughout the trial the defence emphasised there were inconsistencies regarding

record-keeping at PathWest.

The defence argued there were other circumstances of contamination at PathWest.

That line of argument also failed to cast doubt in the mind of Justice Hall.

"While the records [at Pathwest] had some inaccuracies, these were relatively small in number, did not materially affect the ability to trace the relevant samples and were not of a nature ... as to cast any real doubt," he wrote.

"This case involved an extraordinary number of samples that were analysed over many years ... that some errors occurred is not unexpected.

"But they do not give me cause to think there were systemic issues at PathWest that could affect the reliability of the records or results relating to AJM 40 and 42."

Mr Yovich also emphasised the changing nature of DNA awareness since the 1990s.

He contended that scientists were less aware in 1997 that DNA could be transferred in microscopic specks, from exhibit to exhibit.

But the judge decided that PathWest had maintained the appropriate standards at all times.

"It is clear that some of the practices used in the late 1990s and early 2000s would not be considered adequate by contemporary standards," he said.

"But even taking this into account I am not convinced that the DNA evidence is cast into serious doubt or diminished in value.

"The change in standards does not ... make contamination a reasonable explanation."



The moment Justice Hall orders Bradley Edwards to stand in the dock to be read the verdicts of guilty to the willful murders of Jane Rimmer and Ciara Glennon.

Justice Hall said that even the best-run laboratory could not completely remove the chances of contamination.

But the fact that there were such occurrences at PathWest did not raise reasonable doubt.

He said there were more significant reasons why DNA from the Karrakatta victim was highly

unlikely to have contaminated fingernail samples from Ciara.

For contamination to have occurred, the DNA of the rape victim would have to, by some means, persisted in the PathWest laboratory for at least 13 months. During that time the DNA

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# Shamed Weygers wants police probed

**Peter Weygers, one of three local men targeted in the Claremont serial killings investigation, called after the trial verdict for a royal commission into the police manhunt.**

Mr Weygers said his reputation and life and that of two other innocent men, Lance Williams and Steven Ross, had been ruined by being publicly identified as suspects.

"I've been saddened, shocked and upset all over again now that this has all been brought up again," said a visibly upset Mr Weygers.

"It seems the State has now convinced the world that it has the right bloke.

"But I will be carrying the scars of being regarded as a serial killer for life, regardless of this decision.

"All the money, time and effort spent chasing us was wasting time while the real criminal was still out there."

The cold case review that led to the arrest of Bradley Robert Edwards was foisted upon the WA police, he said.

False accusations people made brought stress, anxiety and trauma for the family and friends of the three men.

"It brings me to tears when I think of what they did to us so publicly," he said.

"They signed our death warrants.

"I'm numb with fear that they will now seek to cover up their mistakes and try to justify their behaviour.

"Nothing can bring back Lance Williams and the loss of his years of happiness and that of his family.

"Nothing can compensate us for carrying the lifelong physical and psychological scars of what we suffered."

Lance Williams was picked up by police after a decoy policewoman got into his car in Claremont and he delivered her safely to Mosman Park.

He was followed around the clock by police, bugged and his Cottesloe flat searched, as was his parents' house in Cottesloe.

Clothing was taken away and the back yard dug up.

Mr Weygers said Mr Williams was a good citizen, a quiet, hard-working public servant who was looking out for the welfare of young women walking alone late at night from Claremont night-spots.

"If Lance had picked up Ciara Glennon that night she would still be alive," Mr Weygers said.

Mr Williams died of cancer in February 2018, aged 60.

Mr Weygers, a school psychologist, was mayor of Claremont at the time of the murders in the mid-1990s and president of the



**Claremont search ...** Peter Weygers with a Macro detective outside his Claremont home after it was raided by police in 2004.

Council for Civil Liberties.

He said new research showed that severe post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) manifests quite quickly as deterioration in mental health, then 10 years later as severe physical disorder that can lead to death.

"The body keeps the score," he said.

The health of Mr Weygers, now 76, was also badly affected by his ordeal, he said.

"I was known as the Claremont serial killer - I was called names, pointed to and had threats from vigilantes," he said.

"I lost my job [with the Education Department] counselling children - I was sent into isolation at work for 15 years, and I was voted out as mayor.

"The big question is: 'Who was behind the campaign to make me look like the most despised person in the country,

the Claremont serial killer?'"

"After all these years, I still do not know.

"Was it big interests I had upset? Something the Council for Civil Liberties had uncovered that was getting too close to the truth?"

Mr Weygers is especially critical of the role of the media, apart from the POST, on leading people to believe he had done something or knew something he was not telling.

"The media was fooled by the police into thinking we had something to do with the murders, that there were no more murders because the police were watching us," he said.

"They spread propaganda on the behalf of the police. Where was the real investigative reporting?"

"When the media gets too close to the police, the media depending on police for their stories, there is a huge danger when something goes wrong, like it did in this case."

In mid-1996 police gave him a "silly questionnaire" containing questions such as "did you murder Sarah Spiers? Do you know who did?" He gave the questions to his lawyer who said Mr Weygers had no useful information to provide.

The next day The West Australian wrote that he had not answered the questions and said that he had refused to help police in the Claremont serial

killings murder hunt.

"I didn't refuse - I answered through my lawyer," he said.

The names of three other men out of 100 given the questionnaire were not made public.

Then in 2004 Mr Weygers' house in Richardson Avenue, Claremont, was raided by Macro police and forensic officers investigating the Claremont serial killings, in the full glare of media cameras.

He was also arrested and taken to Macro headquarters for the purpose of DNA samples to be forcibly taken from him.

"All these breaches of my civil liberties occurred to a civil libertarian," he said.

"People believed that where there is smoke there's fire."

He said police just had a smoke machine.

"The publicity brought global negative attention, that the mayor of Claremont was suspected of the Claremont serial killings," he said.

Trust in the police and media took a big dive over the scandal.

He said the family of Lance Williams should immediately be paid \$1million damages by the state for their pain, suffering and loss of their quality of life.

He calculated damages to his own reputation at \$10million.

**▲ If Lance had picked up Ciara Glennon that night she would still be alive ▲**

## Lance's family awaits apology

**Norma Williams' son Lance was once considered by many to be the Claremont serial killer.**

But on Thursday morning Norma watched TV news about the verdicts against a very different man found guilty of two murders.

"He was put under a lot of pressure," Norma, 87, said about Lance, a former Cottesloe resident who died in early 2018, aged 60.

"The police were over the road in the Scout Hall (in Cottesloe's Eric Street) day and night.

"As soon as he went to work they followed him, and they followed him home."

Norma said the police harassment began in 1998.

The widespread belief Lance was guilty was due in part to a police statement that there had been no murders while they were watching him.

But Norma said she and her late husband, Jim, knew he was not guilty.

"He had an alibi every time; we know he didn't do anything," Norma said.

"It just wouldn't be in his nature to do something like that.

"He was with us; he didn't even have a car in January (1996, when Sarah Spiers disappeared).

"It was very stressful, 10½ years of the police hounding us."

Norma said she had read weekly reports in the POST about Bradley Edwards' trial, and also listened and watched broadcast news about it.

"People have said he [Edwards] will be in jail for a long time, considering the other things he's done," she said.

There still had been no apology from police, despite Edwards' arrest and trial.

"They haven't been around,"

she said.

"I've heard nothing since they cleared him in 2008."

Two years ago Norma said police told her informally they did not think Lance was the killer (*No apology for life wreck*, POST, February 10, 2018).

She said: "In 2008 [Jim] Stanbury came to us and said, 'You won't be hearing any more from us'."

"He said, 'I don't believe Lance was the culprit - but don't quote me on that.'"

Lance attended North Cottesloe Primary School and Swanbourne Senior High School, and worked for the R&I Bank in Fremantle and Claremont for seven years before becoming a clerk with Main Roads, a job he held for about 30 years.

Norma said her son was good-natured.

He had said on several oc-

casions that police had a job to do and he was prepared to co-operate because he hadn't murdered anyone.

Police swooped on him after an undercover operation, part of the investigation into the crimes, when a policewoman asked him for information about buses late one night and Lance offered her a lift.

Media reports freely named him as the suspect after Lance identified himself as a person of interest, adding that he had not murdered anybody.

Police even dug up the Williams' patio in a bid to find evidence that Lance was the serial killer.

Jim Williams died two years ago, aged 84.

Norma spends time with a son and daughter; another son is in Japan.

She has eight grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

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CLAREMONT SERIAL KILLINGS VERDICT

■ Reports by Bret Christian, Hugo Timms and David Cohen

# Murder milestones

**1968 December:** Bradley Robert Edwards born.

**1988 February:** 18-year-old attacked in her bed in Huntingdale. Her attacker leaves behind stained kimono. Crime unsolved.

**1990 May:** 40-year-old social worker attacked at her desk at Hollywood Hospital. On-duty Telecom technician Bradley Robert Edwards arrested for common assault, the most minor of the possible charges. Receives two months probation, keeps his job. Magistrate referred him to a sex offender treatment program for eight months despite his not being charged with sex assault.

**1991:** Edwards marries first wife.

**1994-mid:** Edwards connects a home computer to the internet. His wife says he becomes distant.

**1995 February:** Edwards abducts, ties, hoods and gags a 17-year-old girl walking from central Claremont at 3am. Takes her in his Telecom van to Karrakatta cemetery where he twice sexually assaults her.

**1996 January:** Edwards catches his wife and their lodger kissing. She moves out. Refuses his invitation to watch fireworks. Sarah Spiers is abducted in early hours of Jan 27, presumed murdered. Her body has not been found.

**1996 May-June:** Edwards' estranged wife tells him she is pregnant to the lodger, who she is living with.

**1996:** Early hours of June 9: Jane Rimmer last seen outside the Continental [Claremont] Hotel.

**1996 June 9:** Afternoon: Jane's watch found on limestone road at Wellard, south of Perth. Not reported.

**1996 June 10:** Macro Task Force formed.

**1996 August 3:** Jane Rimmer's



A cross marks the spot where Jane's body was found at Wellard.

naked body found hidden in bushes next to where her watch was found. Her throat had been cut. Defence wounds show she put up a fight.

**1997 February-March:** Edwards splits from a girlfriend. Sale of house jointly owned with first wife.

**1997 March:** 15-16, night. Ciara Glennon abducted from Stirling Highway, Claremont. Events surrounding her abduction witnessed by numerous people. Three men describe a Holden station-wagon.

**1997 April 3:** Ciara's clothed body found in bush at Eglinton. Her throat had been cut. Her left thumbnail is broken where she fought back against her attacker.

**1997 July:** Police appeal for people who have been offered lifts from Claremont. Many come forward.

**1998 April:** Police detain and question Cottesloe public servant Lance Williams for the murders.

**1998 September:** News reports published that Lance Williams has failed a lie detector test. Police continue surveillance of him, raid and search his parents' house.

**2000 December:** Edwards remarries, moves to Kewdale.

**2003:** Macro wound down from close to 100 at its peak to five or six officers.

**2004 April:** Outgoing police commissioner Barry Matthews hints at shutting down Macro.

**2004 April:** Macro again raids properties connected to Lance Williams.

**2004 September:** Police forcibly take DNA from former Claremont mayor Peter Weygers and raid and search his house.

**2004 November:** An external cold case team re-examines evidence collected by Macro.

**2005 October:** Macro disbanded, replaced by the Special Crime Squad.

**2008 July:** Special Crime Squad uncovers untested nail samples from Ciara Glennon.



The Holden Commodore wagon Bradley Edwards was driving for Telstra at the times Jane and Ciara vanished. It was seized and searched in 2016.

**2009 Jan:** Tests on the samples reveal that male DNA found on Ciara matches male DNA recovered from the cemetery rape victim.

**2009-2011:** No culprit matched to the DNA profile found on two victims.

**2012-13:** Unidentified fibres



DNA tests show the semen stain on the silk kimono is the same DNA that matched to Ciara and Karrakatta.

recovered from the hair and clothing of Jane Rimmer and Ciara Glennon. ChemCentre links some fibres from victims to a specific model Holden car.

**2013:** Special Crime Squad begins re-examining old crimes around Claremont.

**2015:** Claremont investigation wound down again.

**2015 October:** POST reveals that police have unannounced DNA and car identification evidence. The report says DNA links Ciara's attacker with Karrakatta sexual assaults.

**2016 November:** The squad still delving into old crimes discovers the silk kimono dropped at the Huntingdale home invasion. DNA tests show the semen stain is the same DNA as that matched to Ciara and Karrakatta. Fingerprints lifted from a nearby burglary are matched to those taken from Edwards after his Hollywood attack in 1990.

**2016 Early December:** A Sprite bottle drunk from by Edwards is tested, DNA matches are confirmed.

**2016 December 22:** Edwards' Kewdale house raided. Edwards handcuffed, questioned and taken to Cold Case Murder Squad office for questioning on video. Denies all crimes.

Police seize the Holden station-wagon driven by Edwards at the time of two murders. Edwards charged with Huntingdale and Karrakatta attacks and two murders. He is later charged with Sarah Spiers's murder and pleads not guilty to all.

**2019 March:** Justice Stephen Hall rules evidence of extreme pornography found on Edwards' home computer as inadmissible.

**2019 October:** Edwards pleads guilty to Huntingdale and Karrakatta crimes.

**2019 November:** Trial begins. Edwards' lawyer Paul Yovich flags that veracity of scientific evidence, DNA and fibre, will be "live issues" at the trial.

**2020 May:** Prosecution case concludes after 200 witnesses. Defence opens and closes its case on the same morning. Edwards declines to give evidence. No defence witnesses are called.

**2020 June 25:** Trial is adjourned for three months for the judge to consider his verdict and write his reasons.

**2020 September 24:** Court reconvenes for the verdict. The trial has cost to date more than \$11million, including \$3.5million for Edwards' defence, funded by the state's taxpayers through Legal Aid.



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# Edwards nailed by Ciara



Bradley Robert Edwards

## Garden variety murderer

• From page 1

In his teenage years he grew tall and strong, developing anxiety about his self-perceived unattractiveness to girls because he wore glasses.

His classmates nicknamed him Bogsy.

At 15 he had a girlfriend, but she dumped him within months for an older boy.

His next girlfriend, who in Edwards' words he "stole" from his best friend, became his first wife in 1991.

That marriage ended in 1996, the year Sarah Spiers and Jane Rimmer were murdered.

Edwards married for a second time in 2000.

He had followed in his father's footsteps and completed an apprenticeship with Telecom where he was highly regarded, being assigned to big corporate and government clients, including police stations.

His employer provided him with vehicles that he drove late at night across the width of the metro area, using them to abduct and rape and murder. Far from ordinary.

His crimes exhibited the morals and mercy of a maggot.

• From page 1

Police Commissioner Chris Dawson was in that corner for the verdicts. He talked to and comforted survivors and family members immediately afterwards.

The judge said Edwards used a VS Holden Commodore station wagon to abduct Jane and Ciara, drive them away, intentionally murder them and dispose of their bodies.

Three witnesses sitting at a Stirling Highway bus stop outside Hungry Jack's in Claremont soon after midnight on March 15, 1997, gave a detailed description of the wagon, its make and model.

One saw Ciara bending into the front passenger window, evidently talking to someone inside.

Fibre evidence found on Ciara's and Jane's bodies matched the unique fibres of an identical vehicle.

Navy blue fibres from a Telstra-issue uniform were also found on Jane and Ciara, on the teenager Edwards has admitted abducting and sexually assaulting and in the work vehicle Edwards was driving at the time.

Justice Hall outlined the unequal life-and-death struggle that led to Ciara's thumbnail harbouring the vital DNA that was not identified until 2008, then matched to Edwards in 2016.

"It is not possible to determine how he managed to get Ms Glennon into the car," the judge said.

"At some point a violent struggle ensued at which Ms Glennon scratched or clawed at the accused, thereby getting some of his DNA under her nails."

He said it was likely from blood-soak patterns that the attack happened at Eglinton,



Ciara left the Claremont Hotel through this door ... Hotel co-owner Jon Sanken and others placed bouquets of flowers at the entrance forming a memorial to the murdered women. Photo: Billie Fairclough

where Ciara's body was found.

He also concluded that Edwards abducted Jane Rimmer in the early morning of June 9, 1996 in Claremont. He used a Holden VS Commodore station wagon to drive her to Wellard.

The screams described by witnesses made it likely the attack happened at Wellard.

There was a violent struggle. Ms Rimmer was able to scream but Edwards attacked her with a knife or other sharp object. She suffered a defence injury to her wrist in trying to fend him off.

Edwards, "with intent to kill", stabbed or slashed her with the sharp instrument, causing one or more fatal injuries.

He concealed her body with vegetation and took her clothes away.

The judge will hear submissions on sentencing for a hearing and victim impact statements for a hearing three days before

Christmas.

It appears likely the actual sentencing will be next year.

Edwards faces a long stretch for the rape and home invasion he has admitted, and life sentences on two counts of murder.

## Closure after 25 years

"Bradley Robert Edwards can no longer hide behind the anonymity of the 'Claremont Serial Killer'," Claremont mayor Jock Barker says.

The long-time mayor said the case had troubled his community for 25 years.

"This is an important decision that identifies a single man for

these terrible crimes," Mr Barker said on Thursday.

"The outcome of this trial is very important to the families of the victims, who my thoughts and prayers are with during this time.

"It has been an incredibly long and painful process, and I hope the verdict gives all those affected some closure."



"Staying near the family means everything to me."

Irene, 97  
Bethanie Resident  
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Moving into a new place can be full of unknowns. Will you be able to keep the things that are important to you? How often will friends and family be able to visit? And what new friends will you make? Our resident Life Experts tell us that staying close to the places you're familiar and comfortable with is important as you get older. So we have Bethanie Subiaco suites in this highly sought-after area to help you stay connected to your community. While, of course, enjoying the safety and security of having people around you to help 24/7.

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# We will never give up on Sarah: Dawson

• From page 3

“I think we all just wanted to have our own grief, that’s what I saw ... just thinking about the Spiers all the time – hope they get the result they need.” Ms Rimmer was the only family member to address waiting journalists. The others, including the parents of Bradley Edwards, left without speaking. Mr Dawson said it was an important day for justice in WA. “The Claremont killings struck at the heart of our way of life stretching back almost a quarter of a century,” he said. He said there were many lives affected by Edwards’ crimes and many to thank for bringing him to justice. “We must also recognise the devastation and serious crimes committed on those other women that Bradley Edwards has admitted and is now also convicted of,” Mr Dawson said. “These victims and the witnesses must be commended for their courage and their resilience. “I acknowledge and thank all those family members for their strength and resilience.” He said he spent some time with

those family members immediately after the verdict.

“They have carried themselves and continue to with patience, grace and dignity under the most tragic of circumstances,” he said.

Mr Dawson said the verdict was a testament to the many years of work and “never give up” attitude of WA police officers and others.

“The current team that stand behind me today are one of over 700 police and analysts and forensic experts that were directly allocated to investigate these crimes which stretch back 32 years,” he added.

“Many hundreds more police were involved in painstaking land searches, in answering tens of thousands of phone calls and other work over the years.

“We can all be immensely proud of those officers and the contribution they have made over many years.”

He also thanked forensic experts from PathWest and WA’s ChemCentre and their international colleagues for the “vital forensic evidence” they brought to court.

He said there were too many international law enforcement groups,



Sarah Spiers before she went missing in January 1996.

profilers, analysts and members of the community who came forward with information to mention and thank individually.

But he did thank the Director of Public Prosecutions Amanda Forrester SC and her deputy Carmel Barbagallo SC.

“To Carmel Barbagallo and her supreme prosecution team at the DPP we are in awe of your dedication, we are in awe of your skill and unswerving commitment to prosecute Bradley Edwards,” he said.

“It must be remembered that the DPP also secured crimes against two other young women in the lead up to these proceedings today.”

## Contamination debunked

• From page 6

must have evaded all cleaning measures, which included bleaching testing surfaces after each test.

On this matter, the judge referred to the evidence of Dr Whittaker, who said during the trial that this was an “inordinately long” period of time for DNA to randomly survive in a laboratory.

It was Dr Whittaker who emerged as one of the central witnesses in the successful case against Edwards.

It was at Dr Whittaker’s Birmingham laboratory, the Forensic Science Service, that the key breakthrough had been made in 2008.

Dr Whittaker pioneered what is termed “Low Copy Number” DNA testing, which amplified a DNA profile to an extent not previously possible.

In December 2008 a full male profile was obtained from beneath Ms Glennon’s fingernails; a male profile that the judge found matched that of the male DNA detected on the Karrakatta victim.

It was Dr Whittaker’s conclusion that this fact made it even more unlikely that Edwards’ DNA was there by contamination.

“The only rational explanation for the presence of the DNA at that time is that it was deposited under the nails of Ms Glennon as she fought against her attacker shortly before her death,” the judge said.

“I am satisfied beyond reasonable doubt.”

## Cambridge Notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE FIREBREAK NOTICE 2020/2021 BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

#### Town of Cambridge Appointment of Bush Fire Control Officers 2020 - 2021

In accordance with Section 38 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 the following officers have been appointed Bush Fire Control Officers:

**Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**  
Steve Cleaver

**Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer**  
Mark Allies

**Bush Fire Control Officers**  
Corey Parkinson, Joanna McBride, Katrina Curtis, Luke Lawrence, Shane Nicholls, Simon Millington, Susan Stevens.

All previous appointments are hereby cancelled. Enquiries in relation to this Notice may be directed to Ranger Services, Monday to Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm, on 9347 6000.

#### Town of Cambridge Firebreak Notice 2020 - 2021 to all Property Owners and Occupiers

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are hereby required, on or before **2 November 2020** or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier after **30 September 2020**, to remove from the land owned or occupied by you, all flammable material and/or clear firebreaks in accordance with the following land areas and thereafter to maintain that land or firebreaks up to and including **31 March 2021**:

##### Where the area of the land is less than 2000 square metres:

Slash/mow all grass to a height no greater than five (5) centimetres and remove all slashed materials and other flammable matter from the land. This standard must be maintained until 31 March 2021.

##### Where the area of the land is greater than 2000 square metres:

Slash/mow all grass to a height no greater than five (5) centimetres and remove all slashed materials and/or install a firebreak of three (3) metres wide, clear of all bush and flammable material along all external boundaries of the land. This standard must be maintained until 31 March 2021.

If it is considered impracticable to clear a firebreak or to remove flammable material from the land as required by this notice, an application to the Town of Cambridge in writing may be made prior to **9 October 2020**, for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions or to take alternative action to mitigate the fire hazard. Until written permission is received from the Town, compliance with this notice is required.

Burning off is strictly prohibited within the Town of Cambridge. The penalty for failing to comply with this notice is a fine of up to \$5,000. If the works are not carried out by the date required in this notice, the owner of the land is liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay all costs for performing the works directed in this notice.

**JOHN GIORGI, JP  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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## Gallery packed for height fight

• From page 14

will be an eyesore in our neighbourhoods for decades to come.

“We urge the council to reject the draft local development plan.

“We are not opposed to developing the site but urge the council to support a development more in line with LPS3’s height limit of three storeys, the character of our neighbourhood and the wishes of our residents.”

Brett McGuire, who lives in Wellington Street next door to the proposed buildings, raised laughter when he said that two years ago the council knocked back his application to put an open-sided double carport on the front of his house, because it added bulk to the landscape and didn’t fit in with the streetscape.

He said the transport and traffic reports provided with the LDP were misleading and did not address the impact on the community appropriately.

“These traffic increases on already busy streets are significant,” he said.

“From a personal perspective the impact on our wellbeing would get unquestionably worse.”

He said traffic on the proposed centre access, Turnbull Way, would increase 6500% and would pass his children’s bedrooms at all hours of the day.

The exponentially increased traffic volume along Turnbull Way would affect his children’s sleeping patterns “with ample science informing the impact on learning of regular sleep disruption”.

Other speakers raised concerns about inadequate consultation with residents, increased traffic congestion, parking, noise, the

size and number of studio and one-bedroom apartments, the loss of the village atmosphere and community amenity.

Most speakers said they were not against redevelopment of the site but wanted it to comply with TPS3.

Mosman Park director of planning and operations Amy Nancarrow said there were a number of processes to go through before an application was approved or not approved by the council.

“When it goes to the next process for development approval, it then involves the state government,” she said.

“They can have regard for, or not be bound by, a local development plan.”

Mayor Brett Pollock said the public consultation period had been extended to October 16 and the council intended to hold a “meet the planner” event for residents to discuss their concerns.

He said the council hadn’t approved anything and would consider all the public and community comments and the officers’ recommendations before making any decisions.

“So no decisions have been made,” he said.

“When an application is put in we have to consider it and understand what the community wants.”

ADC director Adam Zorzi said the initial proposal would be open for public comment until mid-October.

“From this stage, a development application will be finalised and lodged, and more detailed information about the project confirmed and shared with the community,” he said.

He said the plans would continue

to be refined as they worked with the council and took in community feedback.

“We’ve put a huge amount of time into considering a development that would enhance the local community with new living, shopping and lifestyle options,” he said.

“The lead architect for this project grew up in Mosman Park and knows the area well, and our brief to him was to come up with a design that would showcase the best a neighbourhood centre could be – one that delivers great new community and public spaces, high-quality landscaping and greenery, convenience and places to meet, eat and relax.

“Mos Lane has been designed to provide a new village heart for Mosman Park.”

Mr Zorzi said some misinformation about the project had been circulated in the community.

“I’d encourage anyone looking for the most up-to-date and accurate information available on our proposal to visit moslaneinfo.com.au,” he said.

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## Cambridge Notice

### Planning and Development Act 2005

#### ADVERTISEMENT OF RESOLUTION TO PREPARE A LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME TOWN OF CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME NO. 2

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Cambridge Council of the local government of the Town of Cambridge on 25 August 2020 passed the following resolution:

That Council:

1. APPROVES the Administration to prepare a new Local Planning Scheme with reference to the entirety of the Town of Cambridge and as shown on the Scheme Area Map (Attachment 2), pursuant to Part 4, Division 1, Section 19(1) of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 and Part 5, Division 1, Section 72(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2005;

Dated this day 25th of September 2020

**JOHN GIORGI, JP  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



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## Mayoral hopefuls urge residents to vote

• From page 29

Channel7 TV presenter and newspaper columnist Basil Zempilas said expanding the free CAT bus service through Nedlands and Crawley was something he would champion if elected as Lord Mayor.

“The ratepayers and residents have told me it is a top priority for them, which means it’s a top priority for me,” Mr Zempilas said.

“Also a solution is required for the current inadequate on-street parking options for residents living in Nedlands and between the hospitals and UWA.”

Di Bain, a former journalist at the ABC who has served as a chair of Activate Perth, said she also would support the extension of the CAT bus through Crawley and

Nedlands, but would not support a King’s Park cable car.

She would also focus on stimulating the night-time economy of West Perth by bringing night markets to the area, as well as making parking free after 6pm and at weekends.

The election will be on Saturday October 17, with ballots to be sent out to all eligible voters roughly three weeks before that date.

It will be conducted via postal voting, but a ballot box will be available from Monday, on the ground floor of the Perth council offices, for those who want to return their vote in person.

The City of Perth encourages ratepayers to get in contact via phone or email if they have not received their ballot papers.

Polls will close at 6pm on the day of the election.