



# Patrols rejected

**BY KATE MURPHY**

The Town of Victoria Park voted against security patrols in the town following a proposal from Federal Member for Swan Steve Irons.

Mr Irons proposed an introduction of a joint security patrol service in the town and City of South Perth to address antisocial behavior and crime.

The community safety working group considered Mr Irons' proposal and referred to research done in the town in 2002 that concluded patrols increased perceptions of safety but didn't statistically decrease crime.

Acting chief executive Anthony Vuleta said the patrol officers had no official powers.

"Security patrols may improve the feeling of security within the community, which can actually lead residents to be less vigilant with their home and personal security and are therefore actually counterproductive," he said.

"We feel the programs the town already runs for community safety and security including street meet 'n' greet and security incentive schemes, plus the neighbourhood watch programs we actively encourage and facilitate, better serve the safety and security of our community."

In December, the City of South Perth also voted not to proceed with security patrols for similar reasons.

Mr Irons had met with town chief executive Arthur Kyron and mayor Trevor Vaughan on behalf of residents in Kensington and East Victoria Park who returned a survey on the issue.

"There was strong community support for this issue and 91.5 per cent of respondents in East Victoria Park support patrols," he said.

"There is clearly a demand in the community for these sort of initiatives and I will continue to support these measures on behalf of the East Victoria Park and Kensington communities that are frustrated with small scale crime and antisocial behaviour impacting on their neighbourhoods."

Mr Irons said other local governments valued security patrols as a means of addressing antisocial behaviour and crime, complementing the work of the police.

"Ultimately the council is elected to represent the ratepayers and are accountable to the ratepayers for the way council decides to spend ratepayers' rates," he said. The town will soon review its community safety and crime prevention plan.