



Minister for Transport; Planning

Your ref: Petition No 170 (A854927)

Our ref: 72-29811

Hon M Swinbourn MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
c/o – env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Swinbourn

PETITION NO. 170 - PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF THE SOUTH WEST FREIGHT RAIL LINE

Thank you for your letter dated 11 November 2020, requesting comments on Petition No. 170, which was tabled by Hon Donna Faragher MLC in the Legislative Council on 14 October 2020.

The Tonkin Highway Extension project and planning for the proposed future realignment of the Kwinana South Western Freight Rail Line through Mundijong and Mardella, along with the METRONET Byford Rail Extension, have been part of long-term plans for the growing south-eastern corridor of Perth.

During 2020, following an approach from the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Main Roads investigated whether it could construct the freight rail realignment as part of the Tonkin Highway Extension project. The investigations have built on previous planning work undertaken by the Shire.

It is acknowledged that the planning study to inform the construction of the freight rail alignment has generated some community anxiety and concluded it is not a process that should be expedited. In response, the decision has been made to separate the planning for the freight rail line corridor from the Tonkin Highway Extension project. I can confirm that the planning for a future freight rail realignment corridor will be undertaken in 2021, in full consultation with the community.

You are assured that my office will be informing the community of this resolution by mail in the coming days.

In the meantime, Main Roads will continue to plan for the construction of the 14-kilometre Tonkin Highway Extension, including bridges over the existing freight rail line and passenger rail line.

Yours sincerely

**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

04 DEC 2020