



Minister for Transport; Disability Services

Hon. Simon O'Brien MLC

Our Ref : 29-08540

12 OCT 2009

Hon B Ellis, MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

PUBLIC

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 2009 concerning the Roe Highway Extension Project from Kwinana Freeway to Stock Road.

The Committee's specific concerns are noted.

There are a number of reasons for proceeding with the Project. Once completed the Extension will:

- Provide improved access to the Fremantle Inner Harbour;
- Form part of the key freight route to the proposed Outer Harbour and the expanding Kwinana industrial area;
- Remove trucks from the residential areas along Leach Highway between Stock Road and Kwinana Freeway, which will improve safety, reduce noise and improve the general amenity in this area;
- Remove trucks from Kwinana Freeway, which is primarily a light vehicle road, between Leach Highway and Roe Highway improving safety and reducing congestion;
- Improve safety and reduce congestion on the east-west roads in the Murdoch area such as South Street and Farrington Road and other local roads;
- Allow for improved access to the future Fiona Stanley Hospital and other developments in the Murdoch area;
- Improve linkages to key industrial and commercial areas along the highway route including the new developments at Perth and Jandakot airports;
- Provide better access for residents in the City of Cockburn who are travelling to the east and improved access from the east to the rapidly expanding Cockburn Coast area; and
- Complete the key strategic link in Perth's road network which connects Reid Highway, Great Northern Highway and Great Eastern Highway in the Midland area to Tonkin Highway, Kwinana Freeway and Stock Road.

Several other options were initially considered as part of the Freight Network Review which was conducted in 2004. None of these options provided the benefits that the Roe Highway Extension along the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) alignment will provide. An alternative alignment known as the 'railway alignment' was explored previously by the then Department for Planning and Infrastructure in 2003. This option was not considered practical for the following reasons:

- It involves significant resumption of land and residential properties and therefore, has enormous social impacts that were not envisaged in the original planning for this road;
- Because of its alignment further to the south, it does not attract traffic that currently uses Leach Highway or South Street and does not improve access to the inner harbour to the same extent as the MRS alignment;
- As a result of the alignment decided for the construction of Roe Highway from South Street to Kwinana Freeway, an extension option that follows the freight railway is no longer viable.

In light of the information provided above, a commitment was made to construct the Roe Highway Extension from Kwinana Freeway to Stock Road along an alignment which generally follows the MRS. Notwithstanding this, there are a number of options within the MRS alignment that will be considered so as to arrive at a solution which minimises any environmental impacts and fully incorporates sustainability principles. These options will be assessed during the extensive community and stakeholder engagement process which the South Metro Connect team has just commenced.

At the conclusion of the engagement process the details of the preferred option will be known and it is at that point that full costings for the Roe Highway Extension will be determined.

I trust the information provided has addressed your concerns. Once again the Committee's interest in this important project is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon O'Brien', written in a cursive style.

Hon Simon O'Brien, MLC
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT