



Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports

Our ref: 72-34706

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

Dear Mr Foster

PETITION NO. 023 – PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF THE SOUTH WEST FREIGHT RAIL LINE

I refer to your email of 2 September 2021, regarding the proposed Kwinana South Western Freight Rail Realignment Project.

The proposed realignment of the freight rail line through Mundijong and Mardella is a long-term strategic transport project, which will offer improved safety and amenity in the Mundijong Town Centre. The proposed project is being developed in close collaboration with the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale and will support the Shire's strategic vision for the industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors.

A planning study to identify a preferred rail corridor for the future rail realignment is underway. The study will include assessing potential corridor alignments, environment and heritage studies, more detailed corridor planning, as well as consultation with key stakeholders at PTA and Arc Infrastructure, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale and the community (including affected landowners).

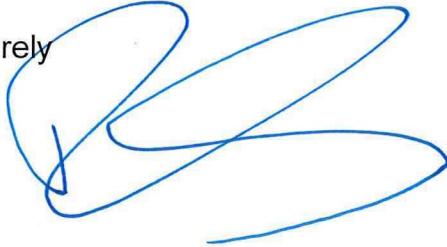
Community consultation was undertaken during 2020 and further consultation is planned in the coming months. Consultation so far has included a community information session in December 2019 to provide an overview of previous planning work, letters to property owners in March 2020 about the new planning study and in March 2021 outlining that the planning study had been separated from the Tonkin Highway Extension project - Thomas Road to South Western Highway. Briefings with the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Arc Infrastructure and PTA are ongoing.

The corridor referred to in your correspondence was developed several years ago along with a number of other options. However, the option was ultimately ruled out due to issues with constructability, value for money, interface with the future extension of Tonkin Highway and associated future interchanges, as well as land requirements.

The current planning study was instigated to review previous development work and identified two realignment options subject to site investigation works and stakeholder consultation. In 2020, the work was progressed as part of the Tonkin Highway Extension project from Thomas Road to South Western Highway. However, the work was separated into a standalone project following feedback from stakeholders and the community. Once a preferred corridor is determined, further development and costing will be undertaken to produce a business case.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several large, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

26 OCT 2021