

MITCHELL FREEWAY, PEAK HOUR TRAFFIC CONGESTION

3059. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

I refer the Minister to peak hours traffic congestion on the Mitchell Freeway and ask -

- (a) when was the last traffic flow study conducted on the Mitchell Freeway;
- (b) what areas did this study take in and at what times of day did the study take place;
- (c) how was this study conducted;
- (d) have any studies been conducted on traffic mergers and the impact on speed, traffic flow and congestion, during peak traffic, on the Mitchell Freeway;
- (e) have any recommendations been made on how to address the problems created by the merging of traffic; and
- (f) if yes, what are these recommendations?

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

- (a)-(c) Main Roads undertakes continual monitoring and analysis of traffic flows and conditions on the Freeway system through the use of ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) technology.
- (d)-(f) Peak hour congestion on major arterial roads such as the Freeway system is an inevitable consequence of the high level of vehicle use experienced in our community. It is neither realistic nor economical to provide road infrastructure which caters for short peak demand periods. While merging manoeuvres can impact on the through flow on a carriageway during peak traffic conditions, any loss in service is outweighed by the need to provide reasonable access for other road users along the Freeway system.

Main Roads will continue to monitor traffic conditions on the Freeway on an on-going basis, and develop strategies to enhance traffic flow wherever possible. If there are any particular locations of concern to the Honourable Member, Main Roads would be happy to investigate these further. The member should note that the Labor Government is providing an improved alternative on the Northern Suburbs Rail - with a new station in her electorate, an extension of the rail line to Clarkson and 93 new rail cars.