

PERTH-DARWIN HIGHWAY

182. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

- (1) Can the minister advise on the current state of planning for the Perth-Darwin highway between Maralla Road south of Bullsbrook and Gillingarra Road north of Bindoon?
- (2) Is the highway alignment contingent upon the completion by the Ministry for Planning of a structure plan for land use in the study area?
- (3) When will the highway alignment and structure plan for the study area be completed?

Hon G.T. GIFFARD replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The minister anticipates that a joint recommendation on the Perth-Darwin national highway and north east corridor extension strategy will be submitted to her office in the third quarter of 2001.
- (2) Planning for the highway alignment has been undertaken in parallel with the north east corridor extension strategy.
- (3) Completion of planning and gazettal of a reservation in the metropolitan region scheme for the new national highway is expected to take a further two to three years. No determination of the route will take place until the community's point of view is taken into account. Labor will re-examine the proposed routes in the light of their likely social impact and environmental consequences, best traffic management practices, and the cost effectiveness of each proposal.