

ROE HIGHWAY, STAGE 7, ROUTE, IMPACT ON GRAND SPIDER ORCHID

1794. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Regarding the proposed route for Roe Highway Stage 7 -

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the current proposed route for Roe Highway Stage 7 will affect an important known occurrence of the extremely rare *Caladenia huegellii*, Grand Spider Orchid?
- (2) Does the Minister support the current proposed route for Roe Highway Stage 7?
- (3) Are other alignment options available that have no impact, or a reduced impact, on the rare *Caladenia huegellii*, Grand Spider Orchid?
- (4) If yes, which are those alignment options?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that this orchid has never been successfully transplanted?
- (6) Why is Main Roads WA claiming that the orchid affected by Roe Stage 7 will be transplanted?
- (7) On what grounds did the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage recently rejected plans for the South Street Rail Station under section 75 of the *EPBC Act*?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Freight Network Review and the Local Impacts Committee assessed a number of route options using a multi criteria analysis to assess and rank the options against environmental, social and economic criteria. The Local Impacts Committee unanimously concluded that the alignment along the existing Metropolitan Region Scheme reservation was the highest ranked option and this alignment was therefore adopted. All options impact on *Caladenia Huegelli* habitat to some degree. However, the preferred alignment is considered to have the least severance impact on the habitat.
- (4) Refer to (3).
- (5) Four *Caladenia Huegelli* were translocated on Roe Highway Stage 6 with two flowering last season. It should be noted that the plants do not necessarily flower every season. The longer term success of this work is yet to be confirmed.
- (6) The scoping document for the Public Environmental Review, as approved by the Commonwealth and State Environmental Regulators, requires translocation as part of an overall mitigation strategy. Main Roads will pursue innovation translocation measures as part of a number of strategies in managing the declared rare flora issue.
- (7) Plans for the South Street Railway Station have not been rejected by the Department of Environment and Heritage. On referral by New MetroRail, this Department decided in October 2003 that under the EPBC Act, Section 75, the proposed action to construct and operate the South Street Railway Station as part of the Southern Suburbs Railway is not a controlled action subject to suitable environmental management.