

TONKIN HIGHWAY-ABERNETHY ROAD ON-RAMP, WETLAND SYSTEM THREATENED

2037. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Regarding the proposed Tonkin Highway/Abernethy Road on-ramp -

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Waters and Rivers Commission classifies the wetland threatened by the on-ramp proposal a Category C (Conservation) wetland?
- (2) How many National/State significant conservation factors were found in the proposed on-ramp area?
- (3) How many Regional significant conservation factors were found in the proposed on-ramp area?
- (4) How many local significant conservation factors were found in the proposed on-ramp area?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that the Public Environmental Review document, page 14, states that, 'The Perth Airport bushland is one of these sites and any further reduction in its area is likely to have some level of effect on the long term viability of the communities and integrity of the ecosystem present'?
- (6) Is the Minister concerned that Main Roads WA may use the arguments put forward in support of the Tonkin Highway/Abernethy Road on-ramp through conservation wetlands to support the proposed Roe Highway Stage 8 through the Bibra Lakes wetland system?
- (7) If no to (6), why not?
- (8) Will the Minister ensure that consideration be given to further on-ramp options through a Local Impacts Committee with members appointed from community conservation, transport, relevant Government Departments and other stakeholder organisations similar to that set up for Roe Highway Stage 7?
- (9) Is the Minister aware that only one exit option from the Marshalling Yards was used in the PER?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

- (1) Yes. This point is clearly identified in the project's PER document. In fact, Main Roads was instrumental in arranging for the true extent of the Conservation Category Wetland to be mapped as part of the preparation of the PER. Previous Waters and Rivers' wetland mapping understated the extent by classifying part of the wetland as a lower category Resource Enhancement Wetland.
- (2)-(4) The environmental factors identified within the project area, and their levels of significance, are clearly outlined in Section 4.0 of the PER, a copy of which I understand has previously been provided to the Member.
- (5) Yes. The Minister is also aware that the next sentence reads "It must be recognised however, that the on-ramp proposal is a relatively small disturbance area both in real terms (1.4 ha) and in its proportional representation of the Bush Forever site (0.2 ha).
- (6) No.
- (7) As the Member should be aware, the Government has previously announced its intention not to build Stage 8 of the Roe Highway project because of the overwhelming environmental value of the area.
- (8) Such a group is considered unnecessary as all of the relevant work on investigating options has already been completed.
- (9) The PER outlines the fact that a number of different options were investigated for the on-ramp. The on-ramp will provide access to and from the Regional Road network for a greater area than just the Marshalling Yards redevelopment.