

REID HIGHWAY EXTENSION - COMMUNITY CONCERNS

278. Hon RAY HALLIGAN to the Minister for Transport:

Can the Minister update the House on the Reid Highway extension, and advise how community concerns regarding its construction have been addressed?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

A construction contract for the Reid Highway extension has been awarded to Henry Walker Eltin Contracting, and on-site activities were expected to start on 20 September 2000. This answer was provided on 19 September. However, activity started on 3 October, I believe. Community concerns regarding the project have been varied, and Main Roads WA has provided the community with extensive project information since October 1999. This information has been provided through staffed shopping centre displays and the delivery of up-to-date information sheets outlining project progress.

To address community concerns, a number of modifications and additions have been made to the project, which include modifying noise wall heights and locations along the extension alignment; incorporating an additional dual-use overpass and underpass; adding a centre median strip to separate traffic; and widening the reconstruction property survey area from the standard 50 metres to 150 metres. Although it is important to address concerns raised, there is also a high degree of community support for the project, including that of the Opposition's Transport spokesperson.