

2nd of April 2008

State Government breaks promise on Tonkin extension

Local MLA Tony Simpson has expressed his disappointment in Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan, who has broken her in-principle promise to extend the Tonkin Highway south past Byford and Mundijong by 2008.

He has also made his own pledge that the Tonkin extension was a personal priority for him and an issue that he would continue to fight for.

“It’s a shame that Minister MacTiernan has not seen this project as a priority,” said Mr Simpson.

“As part of its ongoing neglect of the communities in Serpentine Jarrahdale, the Carpenter Labor Government has broken its promise to extend the Tonkin Highway and is instead focusing on other projects, such as the Perth to Mandurah Railway and the Peel Deviation.

Mr Simpson points to recent traffic surveys undertaken by Main Roads around Byford to show why he thinks an extension of the Tonkin Highway is badly needed.

“On an average weekday in early 2006, nearly 8,000 vehicles travelled up and down the Tonkin Highway south of Rowley Road,” he said.

“The traffic is almost certainly even worse than this now.

“This has resulted in a massive increase in traffic on Thomas Road, which went from 4,567 vehicles per day in August 2005 to 7,986 vehicles per day in March 2006. This is an increase of 3,419 vehicles in less than seven months.

“In the same period the traffic on the South Western Highway through Byford went up nearly 2,000 vehicles per day.

“The Carpenter Government is continuing to neglect the communities we live and work in to pay for its big ticket items, like a \$2 Billion railway line, a \$50 million performing arts centre in Northbridge and a \$600,000 skylight at Perth train station.

“All this is paid for while our communities lose out.

“Byford’s schools are full to the lid, yet the Government refuses to even start planning to build a new one.

“Our police officers in Mundijong are forced to work in sub-standard conditions, in a 50 year old building, with no commitment from the Government for a new police station.

“Byford, Roleystone, Serpentine, Mundijong and Jarrahdale are all amongst the communities that experience the most power outages in Perth, yet the Minister for Energy will not make any commitments to fix that problem either.

“All of this while the State Government sits on a surplus of \$2 Billion.

“Mr Ripper, we want our money back. Spend it on our schools, our police, our power system and our roads.

“I will not stop campaigning until the Government agrees to extend the Tonkin Highway. I will not stop working until our community receives the services they deserve from this State Government.”