

**Tony Simpson** MLA  
State Member for Serpentine-Jarrahdale

**MEDIA**  
**STATEMENT**

**Don Randall** MHR  
Federal Member for Canning

6 March 2008

## Minister breaks promise on Tonkin Highway extension



Byford motorists face a long wait for the Tonkin Highway to be extended to the South Western Highway, Canning MHR Don Randall and Serpentine-Jarrahdale MLA Tony said in a joint statement today.

Despite a 12km stretch of the South Western Highway at Byford being named as the seventh worst road in Western Australia by the RAC, the Labor State Government has still not made a financial

commitment to extending the Tonkin Highway south past Mundijong to alleviate the increasing burden on the South West Highway.

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan has admitted that while the project is under regular review, no funds have been allocated in the current Main Roads budget, or in forward estimates, for the much needed infrastructure.

“From what we hear the State Government is flush with cash. Taxpayers should ask themselves why it’s not being spent on essential infrastructure improvements,” said Mr Randall.

“Road safety in the region is already a serious concern with heavy haulage vehicles forced to take Thomas Road to the South West Highway because the Tonkin Highway comes to a dead end.”

Both Mr Simpson and Mr Randall said that they regularly received calls and letters from constituents concerned about the risk of major accidents and the heavy traffic through Byford’s town centre.

“Local motorists, families and taxpayers cannot be sold short on road safety – it must be a priority!” said Mr Randall.

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“Byford is one of Perth’s fastest growing areas and without forward planning and infrastructure development locals will be left with an unsafe and unreliable transport network.”

Mr Simpson has claimed that the continued failure of the Carpenter Government to extend the Tonkin was yet another broken promise to the community.

“In 2004 Minister MacTiernan made an in principle promise to extend the Tonkin Highway south past Byford and Mundijong by 2008.

“Not only has the Tonkin not been extended, work has not even started. The Government has not even allocated the money to do the work in the State Budget or in the forward estimates.”

The two MP’s have said that the Byford community would continue to question the State Labor Government’s commitment to the growing area.

Last year Minister MacTiernan said that electrification of the railway line from Armadale to Byford was not on the Government’s agenda, despite the Byford service being one of Labor’s 2001 election promises.

Both MP’s agreed that it was a sad reflection on the current State Labor Government and its continual failure to deliver on promised and much needed infrastructure projects.