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Byford public transport in focus – better late than never

Local MP Tony Simpson has expressed relief that the State Government had finally noticed the transport issues of Byford, following Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan's announcement of a transport plan to underpin future planning in Byford.

"It is concerning that it has taken the State Government this long to realise that Byford is a fast growing community, with all the pressures and problems that come with expansion," said Mr Simpson.

"Any support that the Government can provide to ease the problems on our transportation system is welcome.

"However, we need more than this plan that the Minister is talking about, we need action.

"This Government has form on talking the talk. They promised a railway to Byford before the 2001 election. Over seven years later and there is still no rail.

"We need real transport initiatives to solve the problems of the increasing levels of traffic on our roads, caused by the new developments that this same Minister approved."

Mr Simpson also raised concerns about the focus on just public transport.

"Public transport is great and I agree that our community needs better access to it. However, we need more than just buses and trains", he said.

"Communities as removed from the city as Byford also need better roads.

"Every year, the traffic through Byford increases by thousands of vehicles per day.

"These cars and trucks travel straight through Byford, up the South Western Highway, onto Thomas Road and then up the Tonkin and thousands more come the other way.

"If Minister MacTiernan and the State Government are serious about fixing Byford's transport problems, they should start by extending the Tonkin Highway south and take all of these cars and trucks out of our town."