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Roe Extension a Must For Local Community

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton condemned Labor's decision not to support the construction of the Roe Extension from the Kwinana Freeway through to Stock Road.

"Most people recognise the need for the Roe 8 extension. They understand that the Fremantle forecasts show that truck traffic is going to double and that it is going to have a detrimental impact on their lives. That is why the Liberal/National Government is following through with its election commitment to build the Roe Extension," said Dr Nahan.

"It is disappointing to see that Labor has finally come out and put on record that they want to excise the land set aside for the Roe Extension and they want to change the land use. They are happy for the traffic and freight congestion from the Fremantle Port to increase and impact even more on the residents of the southern suburbs."

Dr Nahan said Labor's record over traffic and freight routes in the southern corridor has been atrocious.

"In 2002, they received nearly 10,000 submissions from the community regarding their plan to delete the Fremantle Eastern Bypass. More than 85 per cent of those submissions were opposed to the deletion and yet, they went ahead and deleted it," said Dr Nahan.

"We are seeing the implications of that short-sighted decision now with more and more traffic issues on local roads. The reality is, if the Roe Extension is not built, there will be enormous ramifications for people living in the southern suburbs."

Dr Nahan said many people had forgotten that the Beeliar lakes area is not a pristine wetland.

"Parts of the area were once used as a working farm and a rubbish dump. Those areas have now regenerated from that impact and it shows that environmental areas like this can recover from human intervention," said Dr Nahan.

"Today, in many areas around the world, there are numerous examples of where freeways and highways have been successfully constructed through sensitive environmental areas," said Dr Nahan.

"One example is the freeway through the Florida Everglades, which goes through some of the largest remaining tropical wilderness areas in the United States. Similarly, the Freeway north of Sydney goes through Ramsar wetlands and yet it was able to be built without significant impact on the wetlands that still remain Ramsar listed today."

Dr Nahan said the extension of Roe Highway from Kwinana Freeway west to Stock Road will alleviate the traffic congestion on South Street, Leach Highway other parallel roads.

"These existing routes already generate heavy traffic volumes causing major safety, noise, truck movements and accessibility problems for local residents and businesses," said Dr Nahan.

"Building the Roe Extension will remove most of the heavy haulage trucks from Leach Highway east of Stock Road and provide key freight routes to the existing Fremantle Port and to the proposed Kwinana Port."

"Labor should stop playing games with the lives of the people who live south of the river. If we don't build the Roe extension, it will affect local schools, hospitals, aged-care facilities and residential homes and the amenity that people have come to enjoy will be gone."

"Fremantle is one of the State's premium working ports. As such, its freight must have a way of being distributed and it should not be through residential areas. It should be on a designated highway – Roe Highway – to ensure that the traffic and road freight network needs throughout the southern corridor are taken into consideration."

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