



**Hon Rita Saffioti MLA
Minister for Transport; Planning**

Your ref: 3.009322; 3.009280
Our ref: 72-30436

Margaret Thomas
Mayor
City of Kalamunda
2 Railway Road, Kalamunda, WA, 6076

Dear Mayor Thomas

PROPOSED HALE ROAD / TONKIN HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE, FORRESTFIELD

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the upgrade of the Tonkin Highway-Hale Road intersection as part of the McGowan Government's \$1.4 billion investment in Tonkin Highway improvements.

Development work for the Tonkin Highway Corridor is still underway. The Main Roads project team has been in regular contact with City of Kalamunda officers throughout as the concept has progressed.

Main Roads has advised that communication with the City of Kalamunda regarding plans for a flyover at the Tonkin-Hale intersection date back to March 2018. It is disappointing to see the City of Kalamunda now appears to be running a political campaign in the context of an upcoming State Election, when it has known about the plans for the intersection for nearly three years.

Further to this, the early concept plans for a simple flyover to take Tonkin Highway over Hale Road were changed following community feedback. The design was altered to include north facing ramps to connect Hale Road with Tonkin Highway. These ramps will provide an improved connection between suburbs such as Wattle Grove and Forrestfield with the CBD and Perth Airport – a route that accounts for more than 80 per cent of traffic using the intersection of Tonkin Highway and Hale Road.

Another key consideration is the upgrade of the Tonkin Highway and Welshpool Road intersection. This busy, signalised intersection is being upgraded to a free-flowing, grade-separated four-way interchange. This will enable motorists travelling north on Tonkin Highway to access areas such as Wattle Grove and Forrestfield via Welshpool Road – without facing the current queues of traffic that often reach several hundred metres long.

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Main Roads has undertaken extensive investigations to see if south facing ramps can be accommodated in what is a very constrained site. As previously outlined, if south facing ramps were provided at Hale Road, an estimated 22.5 hectares of land between Welshpool Road and Hale Road would be needed for collector-distributor roads, ramps and drainage. The land required for south facing ramps includes:

- Approximately eight homes on Maamba Crescent
- A Class Reserve (Maamba Reserve), including a registered indigenous heritage site
- The Veteran Car Club of WA premises
- Bush Forever land
- Land outside the current Metropolitan Region Scheme

As outlined above the broad impacts that south facing ramps would have on local homes and heritage areas is significant. This is not simply about low traffic demand for south facing ramps as suggested in your correspondence.

The McGowan Government is undertaking network-wide upgrades, including grade separated interchanges at the Tonkin Hwy intersections with Hale, Welshpool and Kelvin Roads. These new interchanges will provide significant congestion benefits, safety improvements and travel time savings to Forrestfield and Wattle Grove.

As project refinement progresses, I have asked Main Roads to continue its work with the City of Kalamunda to identify local road upgrades to complement the project objectives.

Yours sincerely



Rita Saffioti MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

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