

Highway to nowhere?

Alannah McTiernan, the new Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, appeared to cast doubt on Labor's pre-election commitment to abolish the Roe Highway Extension and the Fremantle Eastern Bypass in a telephone interview two days after the election catapulted Labor into office.

"There will be a complete review of Stages 7 & 8 of Roe Highway and an independent review of traffic projects in metropolitan Perth" she said "and we will look at the freight network as a whole."

Bye Bye Bypass? Well, not necessarily. According to McTiernan, the independent review would be conducted by "a couple of traffic economists." She also told the *Fremantle News* that the community might need to "compromise" on the issue, a comment which has ramifications not only for the Roe Highway, but perhaps for the Bypass as well.

"We want to set up a dialogue between industry and the community in a conference forum so that each side understands the other" she continued "But we need to look at the needs of the Fremantle port, and the community needs to understand that if we're going to have Fremantle as a working port, then the community needs to understand that compromises will need to be made."

Neither Jim McGinty nor Allan Carpenter, the member for Willagee, returned calls to this

office, however
McTiernan's
comments
would
appear to
contradict
McGinty's
public position
that the
Roe
Highway
was a dead
issue. It also
would
appear at
odds with
Federal
member,
Carmen



Lawrence's statements at a public rally on 3 February that the Extension is "a highway to nowhere."

Jim McGinty MLA
Carmen

Lawrence's statements at a public rally on 3 February that the Extension is "a highway to nowhere."

Joe Branco, the Convenor of the North Lakes Residents Association, is dismayed and sought a public clarification. "To me, the lake is one of the most incredible places where you can escape to" he says "It's a place where we can all share the same beauty, and it belongs to everyone. If that's how they want to play it, then it'll be people in front of bulldozers" he said.