

## CONTRACT AWARDED FOR TONKIN HIGHWAY EXTENSION

20/1/03

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan today awarded the design and construction contract for the Tonkin Highway Extension Project to the Transfield Macmahon Joint Venture.

"This design and construction contract, valued at about \$105million, will see the Tonkin Highway extended from Mills Road West in Martin to Thomas Road in Byford, delivering many benefits for the local community and regional industry," Ms MacTiernan said.

"Growth in the south-east metropolitan corridor has been well below expectations - and the award of this contract is the key to opening new opportunities, as it will provide an impetus for future industrial development, residential growth and urban revitalisation.

"The Tonkin Highway Extension Project will add a vital link to the State's transport network. At the same time, it will improve access and amenity for local residents as the area becomes more accessible to major transport routes and employment prospects.

"The highway will ease the growing pressure on the existing road network through Gosnells, Kelmscott and Armadale, improving safety by concentrating heavy freight vehicles on a high standard purpose-built road away from residential streets.

" It will also provide access to the long awaited Forrestdale industrial area and open up areas south of Armadale Road for residential development."

The work will be completed in two parts, initially reaching Armadale Road by the end of 2004 and then finalising the extension project at Thomas Road by the end of 2006.

"Local residents will be kept informed throughout the contract on the work's progress and, wherever possible, will also be alerted to any significant disruptions that may be caused by construction," Ms MacTiernan said.

"Input received from the Community Representative Group, which was established for the project following environmental clearance last year, has provided valuable information about the local environment and helped to identify residents' concerns.

"This information, together with the management plans developed by the contractor, will be used to help minimise the impacts on the local community and best integrate the new highway into the surrounding area."

The Transfield Macmahon Joint Venture will initially focus on finalising the detail design for the extension, before moving out on-site about April this year to start construction on this important regional project.

The total project cost for the Tonkin Highway Extension is \$140million, which includes the contract price, land costs and project management costs.

The highway will be constructed as a dual carriageway with two lanes in each direction and will incorporate interchanges at Albany Highway and Corfield Street.

Landscaping, pedestrian and cycling facilities and works to integrate the new highway into the local network also form part of the project.

Minister's office: Jan Martin 9213 6400