

THE LABOR GOVERNMENT'S RECORD ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE ROAD PLANNING (2004 - 2005)

In 2001 the new Minister for Planning and Infrastructure promised a 'paradigm shift' in transport planning. The Freight Network Review Congress established by the Minister during 2001 and 2002 established community expectations of this 'paradigm shift'. A rigorous triple bottom line assessment (social, environmental and economic factors) for road proposals was established during the Freight Network Review Congress. Unfortunately, the State Government has not applied this rigorous form of assessment to any road project except the proposed Roe Highway Stage 8. Even then the State Government refuses to implement the Freight Congress decision to delete the Roe 8 reservation from the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

Roe Highway Stage 6. Despite a commitment from the contractor to retain as much of the native vegetation as possible along the route, very little has been retained. Little attempt at revegetation has been made.





The route of Roe Highway Stage 7 was subject to 'review' during the Freight Network Review Congress in 2001-2002. A number of viable alternative options were put forward by community groups in an attempt to avoid known environmental impacts if the proposed route was used. The Government short-circuited the process by stating that only route options that used the existing highway reserve would be considered. This ensured that most of the identified population of the rare Grand Spider Orchid (*Caladonia heugelii*) would be destroyed and that remnant vegetation in Ken Hurst Park would be lost. For more information on other threats to rare orchids see www.savebeckleybushland.org

This picture shows the end of Roe Stage 6. The bushland in the centre and top right of the picture will be lost as part of the Roe Highway Stage 7 extension.



(Courtesy of Roe 7 Alliance)



(Photo courtesy of Roe 7 Alliance)

Heavy machinery cuts through important remnant woodland while building Roe Highway Stage 7.



(Photo courtesy of Roe 7 Alliance)