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Fremantle Highway Deletion Tabled in Parliament

TRAC welcomed the tabling in State Parliament of the metropolitan region scheme amendment to delete the Fremantle 'bypass' highway. The new plan proposes urban and recreation areas along the highway reserve.

Spokesperson Kathy Anketell said she thought it was one of the few times the WA Planning Commission had supported deletion of a highway reserve. She said the community is pleased the WA Planning Commission has seen through the negative campaign of misinformation run by the opposition.

The WA Planning Commission has obviously found the reasons for deletion are compelling. The WA Planning Commission report on the Fremantle Highway supported deletion. This followed five other independent studies questioning the need for the Fremantle Highway.

Ms Anketell said the deletion would help ensure that we,

- Move away from our heavy reliance on oil based transport systems
- Allow money from the sale of land, money from not constructing the highway and money not spent on highway maintenance to be used for sustainable transport. (The WA Planning Commission (2003) valued the residential value of the reserve land at \$100 million while construction would cost \$90 million).
- Protect the amenity and safety of children at schools such as White Gum Valley Primary School, South Metropolitan TAFE and South Fremantle High School from the impacts of traffic
- Protect the community from increased noise, pollution, community severance and social dislocation (barrier effect) caused by more highways.

Ms Anketell said she hoped all political parties would realise the benefits of deleting the highway reserve for the community and the environment. We are delighted the ALP has honoured its commitment to the community.