

Plans for bypass changes criticised

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CHANGES to the southern on-ramp of the proposed Smithfield bypass have drawn criticism from a northern beaches councillor, with some motorists agreeing the new route is the inferior option.

Late last month, the State Government announced the \$152 million bypass would run between the Caravonica roundabout and rejoin the Captain Cook Hwy at McGregor Rd, an amendment on the original plan which was to begin at the Yorkeys Knob roundabout.

Division 9 councillor Brett Olds this week said the addition of another set of traffic lights on the Western Arterial Road would add to congestion and confusion.

He referred to the bypass, due to get under way before Christmas, as a “terrible joke and a huge waste of taxpayers’ money”.

The manager of Cairns Student Lodge in Smithfield, Hamish Allardice, said he thought the original plan was the better option.

“They are just looking for a cheaper option. They are better off saving their money and doing it properly later, rather than doing it piecemeal,” he said.

“In the morning, it is a problem from Smithfield back because of (traffic coming from) Kuranda but coming back it is Caravonica, so they are better off having it start at Yorkeys Knob.”

A TransLink spokesman speaking on behalf of Sunbus told the *Cairns Post* “the project provides the opportunity to reduce traffic congestion which could facilitate faster journey times on some buses”.