



Newport relief road scrapped

Published: 4th June 2019

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Online version: <http://www.wheelswithinwales.uk/newport-relief-road-scrapped/>

There have been mixed reactions to the scrapping of the £1.4B M4 relief road by First Minister Mark Drayford.

Over-ruling the recommendation of the inspector after a £44M public enquiry last year, the First Minister said the environmental reasons were too strong and the cost was too high for the southern relief road around Newport.

Environmentalists immediately welcomed the news the road will not be built, although considerable land and properties have been acquired because they were blighted by the proposed road.

But there was also concern from the business sector that the current M4 was almost gridlocked at peak times and put off investment and tourism.

The First Minister could not win whichever way he went with the decision, but he has announced a Commission to look into what alternatives would provide the answer, so further delays and higher costs are possible if that reports inside the next few years.