

Express Hills buses promised

LYDIA KELLNER

A HIGHER-performance bus fleet, better park-and-ride facilities and a high-frequency express bus service between Mt Barker and the city are the highlights of a \$19m package of improvements for Hills commuters promised by the state government.

The pledges, announced on Sunday, follow the release of a controversial study by Infrastructure SA last month which claimed passenger rail was unable to meet consumer needs.

The promised funding package includes \$10m for a fleet of 15 higher-performance buses to operate a new express service between Adelaide Hills communities and the CBD from 2024.

Buses would run between park-and-ride facilities and the city every six to eight minutes in peak periods, every 10 to 15 minutes interpeak and every 20 to 30 minutes at night, with the journey in each direction expected to be about five minutes faster than it is now.

The plan also includes \$2m for a new bus depot and \$6m to expand parking at Crafers by an extra 140 spaces.