

MP demands Hills passenger rail

Member for Kavel, Dan Cregan, has called on the State Government to seriously consider restoring passenger rail services to the Hills, as the South Eastern Freeway becomes increasingly congested.

The renewed call comes as InfrastructureSA finalises its report to the State Government on mass transit options for the Hills.

It also follows the release of Rod Hook and Associates' (RHA) report, which demonstrates how the existing rail corridor could be used for passenger transport, and a similar call from Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie in State Parliament.

"InfrastructureSA has informed me there were about 200 partial shutdowns and two complete shutdowns of the freeway in the last year," Mr Cregan said.

"As matters stand, the freeway is not a reliable corridor in peak times, and we need alternative transport corridors for Hills residents – passenger rail would provide another valuable transport option.

"There is no whole-of-government plan for population growth in the Hills and substantial growth is forecast to continue over the next 25 years.

"With the freeway becoming increasingly congested, passenger rail must be considered as a long-term mass transit option for my community.

"We also need to consider more bus rapid transport options for Hills residents."



Member for Kavel, Dan Cregan, is one of many politicians calling for passenger rail options for the Hills, particularly the South Eastern Freeway.

The RHA report also strongly criticised current and former governments for failing to plan for population growth in the Hills.

"Recent South Australian Governments have been strong advocates of expansion of the Mount Barker area, having presided over extensive population growth," it read.

"The disappointing aspect is the governments have not accepted the corresponding obligation to oversee the development of infrastructure to support this expansion.

"It is not acceptable to leave the Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills region, south east of the city, with ageing infrastructure and a rail line with poor track geometry

and no operating services beyond Belair.

"If the government intends to truly support the current and future residents of Mount Barker and surrounding areas, it must offer them genuine travel choices.

"They deserve to be offered equitable service levels with other parts of the Greater Adelaide region."