



31 January 2022

Media Release

Need for Major Government Transport Investment Confirmed

Mount Barker District Council is very concerned but not surprised that the State Government-commissioned study prepared by Infrastructure SA finds that it is *"unclear how the transport needs of Hills residents will be met into the future"*.

This problem stems back to the 2010 State Government rezoning of 1,300 hectares of land in Mount Barker.

The study recommends that the Government act to bring forward the delivery of the remainder of Heysen Boulevard, a public transport route through the Mount Barker growth area.

Mayor Ann Ferguson said: "Council has highlighted these issues to the Premier and successive transport ministers. The fact remains that after 12 years, no Government has been willing to develop let alone implement a viable short or long-term transport plan for Hills residents."

"Our community is growing so rapidly and it is imperative that essential services and infrastructure are in place which rightly requires Government leadership and support," said Mayor Ferguson.

The report recommends buses as the short-term solution, but not without a significant and genuine commitment by Government to improve the convenience, accessibility and reliability of existing services.

"It is time for the Government to step up to the plate and commit to delivering actions to resolve these essential needs for our community," said Mayor Ferguson

The study also confirms that the Glen Osmond Road, Portrush Road, Cross Rd and Tollgate intersection is at capacity during peak times and impacts transport for Hills residents, yet Council is not aware of any plan or urgency from the Government to address this critical issue.

It is disappointing that when commissioning the study, the Government excluded the impact of freight movements on both current road and rail corridors.

“To properly plan for passenger transport options for Hills residents the serious congestion and safety issues created by freight traffic must be included,” said Mayor Ferguson

The study also references several Department of Infrastructure and Transport studies undertaken and recommends greater transparency by the State Government.

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