



**More red tape, more red lights
26 August 2008**

Living on the wrong side of the tracks takes on new meaning with access denied or restricted over railway crossings on southern Eyre Peninsula.

Despite low incidents or no known accidents, road traffic will be prohibited from crossing the rail at Karkoo, Kaldow and Cockaleechee.

Permits will have to be obtained for traffic to cross the rail line at Yeelanna, Bratten Way east of Cummins, Tod Highway south of Cummins, and at Edillilie. A permit will allow trucks to turn off Tod Highway to cross the rail line, but will not permit trucks to cross the rail line and turn on to Tod Highway.

A local farmer contacted Genesee & Wyoming (the owners of the rail line) in Port Lincoln and Adelaide only to find they knew nothing about the changes.

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold and Member for Stuart Graham Gunn said the idiotic decision defied sanity.

“Local farmers only discovered this decision by the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) inadvertently through their local Council office although we understand it was gazetted some time ago.

“As usual, there has been no known consultation with local government, the rail owners, users nor anyone locally, and no publicity.

“Many other road and rail crossings across rural and regional South Australia could be affected – we simply have no information,” Mrs Penfold said.

Mrs Penfold and Mr Gunn said farm costs will rise even further as drivers try to find permissible routes from farm to silo.

Mrs Penfold said a letter from the DTEI Freight Unit had threatened that opposition and/or criticism of the move would be more likely to result in the imposition of additional restrictions, and said the matter is a safety decision made by the Level Crossing Unit and will not be changed.

Mr Gunn said the government’s continual mantra about consulting and listening to the people, and reducing costs and red tape for business has once again been shown to be a sham.

The DTEI contact for those wishing to express concerns is John Jarrad, Transport Planning DTEI, PO Box 1, Walkerville 5081 or john.jarrad@transport.sa.gov.au or Minister for Transport Patrick Conlon on 1300 307 078.