



LOCK-ELLISTON ROAD

27 May 2003

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold in Parliament yesterday slammed the Minister for Transport Michael Wright's broken commitment on the sealing of the Lock-Elliston road.

Mrs Penfold quoted Mr Wright's written undertaking to Elliston District Council in August last year to seal the remaining 19 kilometres of road by June 2004.

Mr Wright wrote, "... the sealing of the Elliston to Lock road will continue in the 2002-03 financial year. A further \$1.2 million has been committed to the project, which will complete 10 kilometres of reconstruction. The project will be completed in the 2003-04 financial year."

Mrs Penfold said only 4.5 kilometres will be sealed in this financial year and the plant will then disappear again. There is no indication of when- or even if - the remaining 14.5 kilometres will be sealed.

She said this major commercial and tourist highway linking the east and west coasts of Eyre Peninsula has been a casualty of the Labor Government's bias.

"Last year the Minister for Tourism Jane Lomax-Smith announced with great fanfare that this road would now be called the Sylvia Birdseye Highway.

"Only a Labor government could so proudly announce a gravel highway.

"The whole attitude of this Government is that it is more concerned about media perception and appearance than it is about reality," she said.

Mrs Penfold said Elliston Council's Chief Executive Officer David Hitchcock said there appeared to be more flip-flopping going on than a dying carp on the banks of the depleted River Murray.

Mrs Penfold said she will continue to fight for the complete sealing of the remainder of the highway not only for economic reasons but also as a matter of social justice.