



**No overtaking lanes for Eyre Peninsula  
14 February 2007**

The Minister for Road Safety Carmel Zollo, in a response to a letter from the Member for Flinders Liz Penfold, ruled out putting in overtaking lanes on any of Eyre Peninsula's highways.

Mrs Penfold said that, despite the fact that traffic on Lincoln Highway has increased by about 4 per cent a year over the past five years and 2.5 per cent a year on Eyre Highway with much of it heavy trucks, buses and caravans, our roads are not being considered for passing lanes.

"Now that the railway from Wudinna to Thevenard and Kimba to Buckleboo is closed, grain trucks are an added risk," she said.

Ms Zollo said the government had decided to put in overtaking lanes on three of the state's busiest stretches of rural road at Sellicks Hill, Riddoch Highway near Mount Gambier, and Mount Compass where traffic volumes are much higher than on Eyre Peninsula.

Mrs Penfold said the news was extremely disappointing because rejecting our roads was decided only on traffic numbers.

"Other variables such as the long distances and the many heavy transports that travel our highways, particularly those linking east and west Australia, have not been evaluated.

"Numerous passenger cars travelling at much the same speed and going through many small towns is a quite different proposition from a mix of B Doubles and Triples, buses, caravans and cars on long distance roads that have no natural stops," she said.

Mrs Penfold again slammed the state government's lack of support for the Eyre Peninsula railway.

"A skimpy \$2 million will certainly not re-open the sections that have been closed and will not take traffic off the roads.

"The government's notion of road safety appears twisted," she said.

Mrs Penfold said it was another instance of the Labor government's lack of understanding of rural and regional South Australia. ENDS