



**Roads, Eyre Highway
15 May 2003**

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Can the Minister for Transport advise the house whether there is any truth in the rumour that a number of parking bays on the Eyre Highway are to be closed and, if so, has a regional impact study or any consultation been undertaken with the local people? These bays are greatly valued, and are used constantly by many thousands of people driving between Port Augusta and the Western Australian border. They help to reduce the road carnage caused by fatigue when travelling long distances. Only two dedicated workers patrol the road between Ceduna and the Western Australian border, and they take great pride in keeping the parking bays maintained, as well as cleaning up road kill, collecting rubbish, repairing road damage and replacing guard posts. My constituents are most concerned that they remain open and well maintained.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport): I thank the member for her question. I would be surprised if the answer was yes, because our policy is to increase the number of parking bays. We think this is an important part of our road safety campaign. I do not know whether the specific area that the member for Flinders is talking about is undergoing some reconfiguration or whether there are some changes, but I would be very surprised, from a global point of view, if there were to be fewer of them, because we have a policy to increase the number of parking bays.

I will obtain a detailed response with respect to the location that the member for Flinders has asked about. It may well be that some are being upgraded, and that there are some with respect to which the location is being changed. I am not sure of that sort of detail. But, as I said to the member for Flinders, I can give her an assurance that we have a commitment to increase the number of parking bays throughout South Australia. So, I would be extremely surprised with respect to the tenor of her question. I will bring back the detail for the specific area that the member talked about