



Crash markers backflip

By **Elle Vince**

THE Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) has done a backflip on its decision to remove roadside crash marker posts from South Australian roads in 2014.

Councils across the Murray Mallee region received a letter from the DPTI on November 29 stating, "the department is discontinuing the Roadside Crash Markers program ... DPTI will be removing roadside crash marker posts on its roads early in 2014".

When The Murray Valley Standard contacted the DPTI regarding the issue, a spokesperson said a subsequent letter had been sent to councils on December 3, informing those involved of the new decision.

"A letter has been sent to all councils and road safety groups clarifying that the program has not been discontinued and is still under review," the spokesperson said.

"Given that there may be markers that have either a special significance to an individual or the local community, the department is currently seeking feedback on how to consult with those individuals or groups more effectively."

The roadside crash marker program was initiated in 1999 to deliver road safety messages to drivers en route, where a red post signified serious injury and black showed the place of a fatality.

"Studies have identified no significant differences between crash rates over time in areas with roadside markers, compared to those areas that do not have the markers installed," the DPTI spokesperson said.

"However, the markers do serve as a visual reminder for motorists to encourage them to think about their actions on the road."

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick said he was concerned Road Safety Minister Michael O'Brien had initially made the decision to remove the markers without first consulting road safety groups and the families of road crash victims.

"They (the Weatherill Labor Government) have no recognition of what these markers mean to families," Mr Pederick said.

"To many South Australians, the markers are not just posts in the ground that impact the State budget.

Continued page 2