

Upgrades delivered

SAFETY upgrades on the Dukes Highway and South Eastern Freeway are now complete after six years of work.

State Minister for Road Safety Tony Piccolo said further works along the freeway and Princes Highway had also been completed under the project.

“Works on the Princes Highway included shoulder widening and the installation of audible lane markings between Murray Bridge and Mount Barker,” he said.

“We have also completed safety upgrades along the South Eastern Freeway, including the installation of more than five kilometres of roadside safety barriers.

“All up, the project has upgraded or built 21 rest areas along both the Dukes Highway and South Eastern Freeway, which encourages drivers to take regular breaks and stay alert.”

But Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick said the \$100 million could have been better spent.

“It is an improvement but it’s still a band-aid, I think the money could have

been invested in a long-term measure,” he said.

“At the end of the day, duplication is the goal I would like to see, more safety lanes are good but it’s a short-term approach.”

The \$100 million program was jointly funded, with \$80 million from the Australian Government and \$20 million from the South Australian Government.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said the road would be safer for motorists and for people who stopped on the side of the road.

“Simple upgrades such as a five-metre clear zone and audible ‘rumble-strip’ line markings for the length of the Dukes Highway make for significant road safety improvements on long-distance road trips like Adelaide to Melbourne,” he said.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of drivers to stay safe on lengthy road trips so they should have enough sleep before a big trip, take regular breaks and share the driving if possible.