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Adrian Pederick MP

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Shadow Minister for Forests

We should make a start on four lanes for Dukes Highway - Pederick

Upgrading the Dukes Highway is a band-aid measure and does not properly address the matter of road safety says Local MP Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick was responding to news that the state government will not redesign the busy national highway route between Adelaide and Melbourne to four lanes.

'The measures taken so far – clearing roadsides and installing passing lanes – are short term fixes,' he said.

'The death toll this year alone is distressing; not only for victims' families but for the broader community in general.

'I understand that creating a four lane carriageway is expensive: so is dealing with road deaths, serious injuries and frequent road closures.

'It's not just about the number of vehicles on this road. It's also about the type of vehicles using it. This is a major road freight corridor between Melbourne and Adelaide. Night-time driving is particularly hazardous.

'A four lane roadway would be more productive in terms of reducing road accidents in the long term. I believe the money currently being spent would be better applied to making a start on a longer term project to convert to four lanes.

'The longer we leave it, the more expensive it will inevitably become.

'It is reasonable to believe that usage would increase significantly with a safer, more travel-efficient roadway.'