



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

Monday March 5th, 2007

Ambulance ride shakes out road facts for Pederick

Local MP and Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick took a ride in an ambulance on the Loxton-Pinnaroo Road last week to experience first hand just how rough the road surface has become.

At the invitation of local SA Ambulance volunteers, police, local council and a local transport operator, Mr Pederick visited the district to see just how far the major local roads had deteriorated. After the bone-jarring ride in the ambulance, Mr Pederick declared he had finished up with more aches and pains than before he was strapped in.

Ambulance driver, volunteer Rob Berlin, explained that normally they sacrifice speed for comfort in conveying patients from the district to Loxton and other Riverland health centres, but, in adding up to half an hour to the trip, this still had the potential to compromise their health.

Mr Pederick said it was clear from his visit that locals were not exaggerating the problem and in many places the road was past further repair. Some 10 kilometres of the Loxton-Pinnaroo road needed rebuilding as did around 15 kilometres of the Bordertown road.

Crabholes, lack of profile, and water pools were just some of the roads' woes with some sections falling away. Locals feared it would take a fatality to jolt the government into action. The conditions also added considerable expense to vehicle maintenance – a cost which ultimately had to be passed on somewhere down the track.

Adding to the problem is the rerouting of B-double transports along a one kilometre dirt road to avoid them passing through the town centre.

The Southern Mallee Council felt that increasing volume of through traffic on what is already a busy transport route deserved better support from government.

Mr Pederick said previous requests to the state government had attracted little more than sympathy but he intends to pursue the matter in Parliament in the coming weeks.

Photo caption:

Local MP Adrian Pederick is strapped in for the ride along the deteriorating Loxton-Pinnaroo Road by ambulance volunteer Lyn Summerton.

Contact: Adrian Pederick 0429 692 921