



South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

11 May 2006

ELEVATED BRIDGE TO IMPROVE SOUTH ROAD SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN BUDGET ROAD REVAMP: SACOME

The SA Chamber of Mines and Energy has urged the Federal and SA governments to consider innovative means to improve traffic flows on Main South Road, including the use of elevated road bridges.

“SACOME’s members, which include supply and service companies as well as miners, are fed up with the congestion on South Road which compromises their efficiency and reduces customer service,” SACOME Chief Executive, Mr Phil Sutherland, said today.

“Our members’ frustration is felt particularly by those companies that have to traverse the city to major embarkation points like the port and rail hubs of Port Adelaide and Mile End.

“It is time for some lateral thinking and innovative solutions to the traffic nightmare that plays out on Main South Road on a daily basis.

“Civil engineers within the ranks of SACOME’s membership have advised that an option worth considering is what is described as a ‘fig leaf road bridge design’. This features a four lane elevated carriageway with central pillars, the style of carriageway that you find in Bangkok and elsewhere overseas.

“Such an elevated carriageway could be built along the most congested areas of Main South Road with access ramps at major road intersections. It would follow the existing route of the Main South Road which would then become a service road beneath the elevated carriageway.

“This would solve the problem of purchasing and demolishing private and commercial property, and allow existing shops and offices to remain.

“SACOME calls on the Federal and State governments to direct some of the \$922 million over four years allocated to South Australia as part of the federal budget, for transport infrastructure to a major upgrade of this important transport route,” he said.

The Main South Road is the major north-south transport corridor across Adelaide. It has been the subject of numerous piecemeal upgrades since the establishment of the road. A major upgrade of the road was a central feature of the Metropolitan Adelaide Transport Study (MATS Plan) of the early 1970's. That far sighted plan was never implemented resulting in a road system more suited to a country town than a city of over a million people. The state government in the 2006/07 budget committed funds for two road tunnels in an attempt at alleviating the daily traffic congestion.

"The measures proposed by the State are useful, but when you consider the importance of the road to Adelaide, these steps fall a long way short of the major upgrade necessary along its full length," Mr Sutherland said.

"This is obviously beyond the resources of the State Government. Federal fiscal intervention is long overdue. We hope that some of the money available from the Federal budget for roads will find its way to the Main South Road. Otherwise the road will simply be victim to one patch up solution after another," he said.

For further information contact:

Mr Phil Sutherland

Chief Executive Officer, SA Chamber of Mines and Energy

Telephone 08 8373 9601 or Mob 0402 440 339