

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, November 5

Historic joint Council sitting to call for Darlington fix

An unprecedented joint sitting between two Adelaide Councils will call on the State Government to rethink the design of the \$620 million Darlington road upgrade.

The Cities of Marion and Mitcham have called the special meeting for Monday 9 November in an attempt to improve the plan. Both Councils support an upgrade at Darlington but insist the design needs to:

- Allow for the future expansion at Flinders University, Flinders Medical Centre, and Tonsley, as well as drive jobs growth in the southern region.
- Maximise employment opportunities for local businesses and residents.
- Improve local traffic access to the area, which has worried residents and Councils.
- Promote cycling and public transport, overcome car parking shortages, and improve access from one side of South Road to the other.
- Minimise the loss of trees during construction.

Marion Mayor Kris Hanna and Mitcham Mayor Glenn Spear have called the historic joint meeting to discuss the community's frustrations and how they may be resolved.

Mr Hanna said the Darlington upgrade is long overdue and had the potential to be a strong economic and jobs driver in the region.

"We have an opportunity to ensure the success of the Tonsley development by building infrastructure at Darlington that is more than just a road," Mr Hanna said.

He said Marion Council had formally responded to DPTI's design concept in May this year.

"We acknowledge DPTI is considering making a few minor changes to the design, such as around cycling, but most of the City of Marion's concerns have not been addressed," Mr Hanna said.

"As Mayors we have been left with little option other than to call an historic joint meeting of Marion and Mitcham Councils to find a solution."

Mayor Spear said we want to ensure that an integrated solution is delivered that addresses our community's concerns while creating an integrated precinct which stimulates economic growth in the region.

“We support the Premier’s vision in the development of an innovative smart city we believe this can only be achieved by involving all key stakeholders to carefully plan an integrated solution which will make our city more liveable and accessible for all,” Mr Spear said.

“The State Government is considering two consortiums to build the project and we are aware that the design is yet to be finalised.”

He said it is imperative that the Federal Government provides more time to allow the two consortiums the opportunity to consider developing an integrated solution which will address the concerns of our local community to problems such as parking, traffic, access, the loss of amenity and connectivity for pedestrians, cycling and public transport.

“South Australia will only have one chance to get the construction of the Darlington road upgrade right,” Mr Spear said.

The State and Federal Governments last year announced \$620 million to upgrade the 2.3 kilometre road corridor between the Southern Expressway and Ayliffes Road at Darlington.

DPTI released an initial design concept last year followed by an alternative scheme in March this year. The Councils have previously written to DPTI to express their concerns about the latest proposal.