



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 18 April, 2016

Oaklands crossing: clogged, unsafe, needs fixing

Oaklands crossing is clogged with more than 41,000 vehicles a day amid concerns over its safety and must be fixed as a priority to end 40 years of traffic jams.

It was not uncommon for motorists to wait up to 20 minutes in peak hour traffic to cross the road and rail intersection at Oaklands Park, prompting a resident to dub it 'the gates from hell'.

Marion Council has today launched an unprecedented community campaign calling on the State and Federal Governments to build a grade separation at the crossing as a priority.

It coincides with the release of a survey by Marion Council in which more than 96 per cent of the nearly 2200 respondents were demanding action.

Mayor Kris Hanna has unveiled a 12mx3m billboard at the crossing and released a video for social media highlighting the problem as part of an advertising campaign.

"For more than 40 years, Oaklands crossing has been the scene of traffic chaos, long delays and commuter frustration," Mr Hanna said.

"It's now time to get Oaklands crossing moving by funding a separation of road and rail, creating jobs and connecting people to services, facilities and businesses.

"Our community's patience has run out which is why we are launching a campaign calling on the State and Federal Governments to work together to fix Oaklands crossing once and for all."

Mr Hanna said the boom gates can close about 130 times a day, effectively shutting a main-north south corridor to vehicles for an estimated two hours per day.

"The closure for about two hours a day of a busy road into Marion is unacceptable to our community," Mr Hann said.

Mr Hanna said he was concerned about the safety of the crossing.

"SA Police has reported 100 collisions at the intersection between 2010 and 2015," Mr Hanna said.

"I'm concerned that Oaklands crossing has been listed in the top five most dangerous metropolitan crossings, with rail authorities reporting 18 incidents between 2009 and 2015."

In 2012, the State Government released a planning study which assessed four options to solve the traffic congestion.

Contact: Craig Clarke, Unit Manager Communications, City of Marion, 0434 600 637



Unblock Oaklands Crossing



@unblockoaklands



City of Marion

It recommended the construction of an overpass to carry trains over Morphett Rd which at the time was estimated to cost about \$110 million. However, no timeframe or budget commitment was made at the time.

“The longer we delay in building a solution, the more expensive it will be,” Mr Hanna said.

“Fixing Oaklands crossing is the first, second and third priority for local residents and anyone who uses the crossing regularly.”

“I urge the community to join the campaign and help send a message to those who have the power to fix the crossing.

“We’re starting the campaign now to coincide with the coming Federal election and will continue it, if necessary, right up to the State election in 2018.”

The community can join the campaign by registering at oaklandscrossing.com.au or through social media with the addresses at the bottom of this page.

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