

20 July 2011

## Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP

Member for Stuart

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### CLOSURE of IMPORTANT INTERSECTION

The Member for Stuart, Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP, and Member for Schubert, Ivan Venning MP, met on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July with a number of very concerned constituents, including Councillor Peter Kennelly from Light Regional Council, at the intersection of Research Road and the Sturt Highway near Nuriootpa to discuss the State government's planned closure of the intersection.

The Sturt Highway divides the electorates of Stuart and Schubert, and Mr van Holst Pellekaan and Mr Venning are working jointly with locals who oppose the government's proposed intersection closure to improve the plan. This proposed closure follows the recent closure of Pipeline Road East on the southern side of Sturt Highway.

Those who attended the meeting are part of a large group of farmers, vignerons and contractors who regularly use the intersection to cross the highway in large agricultural machinery. The closure of this intersection would force them to travel along the Sturt Highway for 2.5km with very large and slow moving agricultural equipment rather than just crossing.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan said *"I strongly support the government's desire to make the Sturt Highway safer, but doing this will actually make it less safe. This proposal is dangerous because it would force the movement of large slow moving agricultural machinery to travel along the highway for 2.5km rather than just to cross it."*

*"It would be very easy to put a short bend in the northern section of Research Road just before it meets the highway creating a safe offset or staggered crossing. This would be far safer for all road traffic including the very large equipment."*

*"The government must give consideration to the people who live and work in the district and not just to those who pass through it."*

Both Mr van Holst Pellekaan and Mr Venning have contacted the Minister for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, Patrick Conlon, to address the matter and the issue will be raised by Councillor Kennelly at the next Light Regional Council meeting.

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