

## MEDIA STATEMENT



# Murray Cowper MLA

## Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations; Emergency Services

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22 January 2008

### Hamel to Cookernup stretch rates as one of WA's most dangerous

Murray MLA Murray Cowper is asking the State Government to ensure that the stretch of South West Highway from Hamel to Cookernup be upgraded to an acceptable standard in order to prevent more car injuries and fatalities in the area.

The notorious stretch of highway rates as the sixth worst stretch road in the state according to the Australian Road Assessment Program. The section of the South West Highway between Yornup and Shannon was listed as the most dangerous in WA.

Mr Cowper says that the amount of Alcoa workers and trucks travelling the Hamel Cookernup stretch warrants serious attention from the government for the road, which he says needs an additional overtaking lane, and needs to be widened and aligned.

He echoed calls by the RAC's Executive Manager of Member Advocacy for the government to commit to a program to upgrade the roads to 4 or 5 star standard by 2012.

In the Murray region, the Husband/Ronlyn Road intersection is still rated as the worst intersection in the area, with accidents at the intersection costing around \$1.8 million so far. Mr Cowper says that despite being told by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Alannah McTiernan, that installing traffic lights at the intersection 'was not a priority', he would continue to push the issue in Parliament this year.

"The increased traffic and number of heavy vehicles through that intersection means that the chance of more fatalities is increasing, and I sincerely hope that the Minister does not need another one to jolt her into action."

Mr Cowper says that the low priority given to country road safety is due to lack of infrastructure planning for the city's population boom, and noted last year's disproportional country road toll.

"Because the Government is playing catch-up with city infrastructure, our country roads are being neglected and are becoming more and more dangerous."

Air your concerns on the issue at Murray Cowper's Virtual Town Hall, at [www.murraycowper.com](http://www.murraycowper.com).

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