

ADVERTORIAL

Touching Base with Tony



Tony Pasin MP
Federal Member for Barker
Shadow Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Staggering road toll tells more than numbers

The nation's road toll is staggeringly high. Tragically the situation in South Australia's is even worse.

The latest statistics from the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics for the calendar year to the end of October show that deaths on South Australian's roads have increased 47.3 per cent. This is an alarming trend.

At the time of writing, this year to date 105 people have died on our State's roads.

These 105 lives translate to many thousands of people impacted. From the first responders, the victim's parents, children, siblings, significant others, friends, work colleagues, teammates, indeed entire communities suffer when road trauma occurs.

The impact of this trauma is far reaching and profound, it hits with the force of a tsunami.

Each one of these 105 lives lost is a person loved by many and who was making a contribution in one way or another to the broader community.

Sadly, this has been highlighted recently by the death of Charlie Stevens, son of the South Australian Police Commissioner Grant Stevens. Like many community leaders who have the privilege of a public voice, the Police Commissioner has used his profile and voice in the media often to talk about the need to improve safety on our roads. He was regularly on radio, on television and in print discussing the need to bring the road toll down.

Grant Stevens away from the public eye is a devoted and loving father of five. Tragically for Commissioner Stevens his private and public life came into tragic alignment when his youngest son Charlie was struck by car and ultimately lost his life. To their great and enduring credit, Commissioner Stevens and his wife did not seek the privacy to which they were entitled upon the death of their son. Instead, they published an emotional letter about the 101st person to die on a South Australian road this year, their son Charlie.

The letter made it clear that Charlie, like the other 100 road fatalities to that point this year, was much more than a number. It was difficult to read, it was heartbreaking, it was raw but, it was real. Importantly it was a reminder to us all that there is a person and a story behind each and every death on our roads and that it is time we refused to accept that more than 1,200 Australian's die each year on our roads.

I encourage everyone to hold your loved ones close and please, this take care on our roads today and everyday.



TONY PASIN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BARKER

SEV248/46

Penola ambos open door to new recruits

CPR training night offers service insight

SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) will host a CPR education and volunteer information night on December 5 from 6pm-8pm at the Penola Ambulance Station.

On the evening people can meet volunteers, find out what volunteering is all about and ask any questions.

They will also learn about what to do in a cardiac emergency with a lesson on CPR and how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Volunteer and mum of three, Yvette started volunteering with the Penola team five years ago.

"I really wanted to give back to the community and be able to help people in their time of need," she said.

"I find it really rewarding and I have learnt many new skills.

"I have also met many interesting and amazing people along the way and

have built up great relationships with my colleagues.

"I love that no day is always the same and you never know where it might take you."

Volunteers gain experience and nationally-recognised qualifications in pre-hospital care, meet new people and support their communities.

New recruits do a combination of online and face-to-face training and are always paired with a qualified officer while on a call.

Volunteers and their families also receive free Ambulance Cover whilst volunteering for their communities with SAAS.

To attend the CPR education and volunteer information night at the Penola Ambulance Station RSVP to SAAS regional team leader Joe Renko on 0419 037 602 / joe.renko@sa.gov.au, or visit the station prior to the evening.



HERE TO HELP: The 2023 SAAS Penola team will help out at the upcoming CPR education and volunteer information night at the Penola Ambulance Station.

\$10m

Stage 2 redevelopment plans unveiled

The ambitious plans for stage two of Mount Gambier's The Mills precinct have been unveiled, which include a boutique hotel and major accessibility upgrades.

The stage two upgrades are expected to cost \$10m and the proposed development plan has been submitted to Plan SA for consideration.

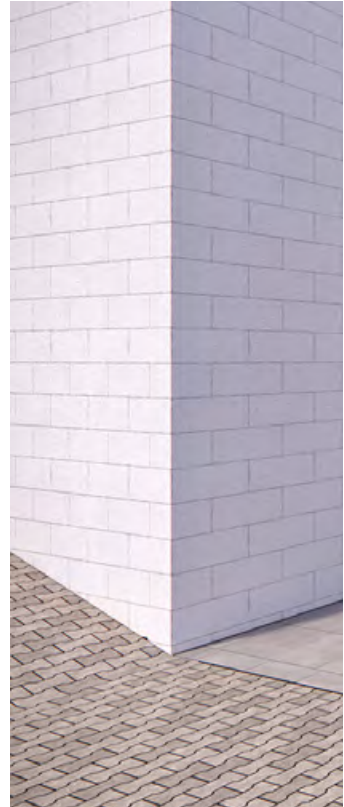
Das Studio architect and project lead for The Mills Dino Vrynios was excited about the forthcoming developments, which will ideally start around September 2024.

My Vrynios said the main features of stage two are the public realm, which involves completing the urban component of the site and a 20-room boutique hotel.

"The hotel will sit at the northernmost end of the site along Alexander Street and include the laneway that connects Mitchell Street through to the existing car park," he said.

"Methodically working towards the reimagining of the whole precinct, this development will allow us to unlock the final piece of the puzzle: the upper two levels of the remaining two buildings to activate these spaces in the future stages.

"The new laneway development is going to enable direct access into those two buildings as well and unify the public realm, which is really exciting."



Mr Vrynios said accessibility to Mitchell Street and the access point to the laneway was currently impossible, so the laneway will be entirely redeveloped.

"In between Stores East and Stores West buildings which will make up the hotel is a small gap housing existing wells," he said.

"We worked out that if we remove some of the limestone wall on Alexander Street and create a new contemporary insertion, it allowed us to provide dual access points- one on the high level for drop off and disability access and one on the lower level from the laneway."

Mr Vrynios said the laneway redevelopment, along with the assistance of the existing disability lift at the front of the precinct, will

Community given direct voice to council on

Citizen's jury explores future opportunities

The Grant District Council has started engaging with locals to review its long-term goals and strategies for the district detailed within the Strategic Management Plan.

Representatives from a variety of community groups, local businesses and key industries formed a citizen's jury to discuss how the district has changed and future opportunities to explore at a workshop facilitated by Gilham Strategy & Planning.

Mayor Kylie Boston said the Strategic Management Plan was council's core document which guides planning and decision-making processes.

"It's important to understand our community's long-term vision and expectations to ensure we deliver relevant actions to support our districts

growth and success.

We want to achieve a shared community vision with input from those with a passion and lived experience in our area," she said.

"We are excited to continue engaging with our community in the new year and encourage everyone to share their thoughts and ideas on the future of Grant District Council."

Chief executive Darryl Whicker said council's engagement format will ensure perspectives from a wide cross section of the community are heard.

"The citizen's jury is made up of a diverse range of people across our district comprising disability support, not-for-profits, business leaders, partner agencies and community groups," he said.

"Corresponding workshops with council's staff leadership team and Elected Members were also held to ensure that we are gathering information from all perspectives."

Councils are required to review their Strategic

Management Plan within two years of a local government election under the Local Government Act 1999.

The council's current Strategic Management Plan 2020-2030 can be viewed via online at www.dccgrant.sa.gov.au/council/policies-by-laws-and-documents/strategiesplans

The wider Grant community will have an opportunity to have their say and inform the Strategic Management Plan in early 2024.

Interested residents, workers, business and visitors are encouraged to register to stay up to date with project announcements on Your Say DCG.

CITIZEN'S JURY: Representatives from a variety of community groups, local businesses and key industries formed a citizen's jury to discuss how the Grant district has changed and future opportunities to explore.

mills revamp



NEW DEVELOPMENTS:

The ambitious plans for stage two of Mount Gambier's The Mills precinct have been unveiled, which include a boutique hotel and major accessibility improvements. **Pic: DAS Studio**



allow full accessibility to all buildings.

"The client understands that resolving issues around accessibility is also unlocking the site's full potential," he said.

Mr Vrynios said the idea for a hotel in the precinct had been discussed previously by past and current owners, and the idea resurfaced after a conversation with The

Mills builder Kennett.

"We are seeing an increase in demand and there is not really a variety of high-quality accommodation in the area and there was not really a premium, boutique hotel offering in the city," he said.

"We completed a feasibility exercise at the start of the year and engaged a tourism expert to take a deep dive

analysis of the local marketplace for this kind of development.

"Through that process, we validated there was a gap in the market and an opportunity.

"So, the final step was to get an understanding of how the commercial viability of the project would need to stack up."

Mr Vrynios said a current

challenge was Alexander Street footpath design, which caused water to pool against the building and make its way inside, so ideas were being proposed with council on how to prevent this and protect the state heritage building.

Community consultation of stage two began this week and will run until December 15.

Livestock transfer goes under radar

Former saleyards usage in question

Story by
J.L. 'Fred' Smith

Matters relating to the use of the Millicent stock transfer facility were frequently aired at two recent meetings of Wattle Range Council.

Its Audit and Risk Committee had met at 2pm on November 14 and it was followed three hours later by the monthly council meeting.

The Millicent saleyards had closed as a selling centre on June 30 and had morphed solely into a stock transfer facility.

Council had little knowledge of much use over the past four months but others were of the opinion that up to 1600 head of sheep and cattle had passed through since July 1.

A Millicent grazer had placed notices in the office windows of agents claiming the 1600 figure was correct and at odds with senior council staff.

Chief executive Ben Gower told the Audit and Risk Committee meeting there had

directing their attentions to senior staff in respect to council-made decisions.

Further consideration about the Millicent stock transfer facility was given at the full council meeting later that day.

Deputy chief executive Paul Duka said council had not received any fees from stock transit use and there were biosecurity risks.

Both Mr Gower and Mayor Des Noll questioned the authenticity of the 1600 figure while Cr Moira Neagle said the figures had been sourced from the local agents.

Cr Neagle said signage reminding graziers of their reporting obligations to council had not been in place and Cr Sharon Cox had said the signs were only erected in early November.

Elders Millicent manager Scott Altschwager then made a presentation to the council regarding his perceptions around the operation of the stock transfer facility.

Mr Altschwager said his



OBLIGATIONS EXPLAINED: New signage at the Millicent stock transfer facility reminds graziers of their reporting requirements. **Pic: Fred Smith**

been no applications yet from graziers to use the stock transit facility and no paperwork had been submitted or fees paid to council.

Councillor David Walshaw said the venue should be out-of-bounds to graziers until the site orientation and induction had been completed.

Cr Walshaw expressed concern the office window notices had targeted senior staff.

He said Wattle Range Council faced significant exposure if such numbers of stock were using the yards and committee chairman Michael Schultz agreed

His committee formally noted that Mr Gower will reassess the workplace health and safety and biosecurity risks associated with unauthorised access to the Millicent stock transfer facility.

Furthermore, the committee noted the continued potential for psychological risk associated with members of the public

company had transited stock through the yards since July 1 comprising 762 sheep and 14 head of cattle.

He provided an increased understanding of how livestock movements can be facilitated whilst meeting regulatory requirements.

The Elders Millicent manager said he agreed with the statement of Cr Neagle that transiting stock at Millicent has value to local agents and farmers.

The last matter concerning the Millicent stock transfer facility was a notice of motion from Cr Cox.

She successfully moved that Wattle Range Council reduce the truck wash fees to \$1 per minute to be more competitive with neighbouring councils.

Earlier this year, Cr Cox had initiated the push for a \$1.50 per minute charge to match anticipated higher charges at nearby facilities but these did not eventuate.

long-term strategic management plan

