



Nomination for Opportunity

Review the plan for widening South Road



Photo c/o Sunday Mail, 7/7/2019

The Sunday Mail reported in May 2019 that the widening of South Road between River Torrens and Darlington could destroy numerous state and local heritage listed properties.

The previous widening north of River Torrens produced an unpleasant travelling experience due to the containment of the road between barriers with little view of the surroundings. This can be alleviated by retaining heritage listed buildings and streetscape viewable from the road.

Road widening attracts more motorists onto a road, easily returning it to design capacity. The 1968 MATS Plan process considered alternatives but there has been little evidence of such considerations recently. With traffic being a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, much more effort needs to be undertaken to curb traffic growth. CSIRO reported "*Passenger vehicle travel per capita could decline by up to 45 per cent in our major cities, with more people living closer to work, school, services and recreation*".

The need for a motorway can be reduced or avoided through effective traffic demand management which utilises alternative modes of travel, expanding the metropolitan and regional train network and distributing the centres of employment, further facilitated by an adequate NBN and decentralisation to regional towns

If a motorway is proposed regardless, then widening the road reserve can be avoided by elevated construction similar to Regency Road to Port River Expressway, multilevel construction, perhaps unidirectional at different elevations, and tunnelling if this does not deplete the aquifers or undermine groundwater ecology. Road width should only be to that required at the time. With the advent of driverless cars much less room will be required, as vehicles can travel closer together. On this basis, a growing economy will require less car use per capita. The future must be factored in.