

SARRA comment, May 2021



AS South Australia rolls inexorably toward TWO elections - Federal and State - the need to sort out the mess which is the South Eastern Freeway, and the crying need to extend passenger, tourist and commuter rail services into rural South Australia - is looming large on the political horizon for both SCOMO and MARSHALL.

But the way things are going, both the Federal and State Governments are thundering downhill to a dangerous electoral crossroad - and a political car-wreck looks likely for both the Federal and State Liberal Parties....

While the outcome of the Federal Election is harder to predict because of Nationwide issues, the key South Australian Federal Seat of Boothby, which encompasses the Adelaide Hills, may have an influence in the outcome for SCOMO.

The Federal Liberals will no doubt gently pass on the Adelaide Hills transport fiasco to the Marshall Government (where decision-making over the matter properly resides), but it could help its cause and that of Marshall by using its powers to fund a rail transport link through the Apamurra spur across to Truro and on, to link up to the main line from Adelaide to the NT and Perth.

This would allow 'double stacking' of freight by rail, take most of freight-transfer out of the Adelaide Hills and alleviate pressure on the SE Freeway.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, It would 'free up' the current rail line through the Adelaide Hills for use as a commuter line, initially to Mount Barker, and later, beyond.

But true to form, the MARSHALL Government has said outright through its Transport Minister (who no doubt is being strangled by the all-powerful Mandarins in the Dept of Transport, as his predecessor was) that regional commuter trains are NOT on its political agenda.

This short-sighted blinkered rabid-dog approach to regional passenger rail by Marshall and his cronies is set to bite them in the political arse between now and the State election.

The pressure is on them to ensure a Barossa Tourist Train is returned to Australia's most popular wine tourist region....and now, thanks to recent traffic debacles on the SE Freeway, there's even greater pressure on them to get a train service happening in the Hills.

In the month of May alone, the Adelaide Hills issue attracted increasing radio news and talkback commentary, to which SARRA contributed.

Have a listen to the (edited) clips, from 5AA's Leon Byner's top-rating morning program, to a segment by Paul Gough on ABC 891's Afternoon program, and to the ABC 891's indefatigable Peter Goers Evening program, by going to our website www.saregionaltrainscampaign.com

Will Marshall take heed....? On his performance so far, he's unlikely to....his government is likely to be a fatality at the electoral crossroad coming up in 2022.....as for SCOMO and Boothby....let's just say it's on 'life support' at the moment.....