

My interest in this Rail Freight Study was aroused by an article in the " LEADER " local paper on Wednesday 11th November, by Ivan Venning, member for Schubert SA.

My suggestion is that you consider an alternative option of a rail corridor emanating from Tailem Bend, and remaining on the East side of the River Murray until passing the mouth of the Marne River, on the West side, and then crossing the River Murray, at or adjacent to Swan Reach, and then proceed to a point between Sedan and Truro, as in other options.

This River Murray crossing, could be constructed so as to cater for both Rail and Road traffic.

The proposed line out of Tailem Bend could follow the Karoonda rail corridor, until just West of Wynarka, and then head due North.

Other than crossing the River Murray, no other creeks or flood ways have to be catered for in this proposal.

By passing the Adelaide Hills, and the heavily populated areas of suburban Adelaide, with heavy freight trains, are of the utmost importance, for numerous reasons as stated in your call for submissions.

The advantages are manifold;

The river crossing at Murray Bridge, probably precludes double stacking of containers, and is 84 Years old, and will no doubt require upgrading soon.

The short tunnel under Bridge Street / Princes Highway would need to be modified to handle double stacking etc.

The existing rail line to Murray Bridge could be improved so as to cater for passenger traffic, and to perhaps assist further urban development in the adjacent areas.

Whatever route is decided upon heading North out of Monarto South, would have to cater for at least six major creek crossings, and numerous smaller flood waterways.

This alternative is certainly further in distance, but is likely to be less expensive overall.

Today at Nildottie it is 41 degrees C, and therefore I am precluded from outside work, and hence have time to dabble in the office.

No doubt you will have many reasons why this alternative proposal cannot be seriously considered.

Doug Prosser