

Dear Sirs

While I cannot knowledgably comment on the merits of the various rail path options discussed in the Adelaide Rail Freight Movement Study, I must express my concern at the possibility of the current rail line being retained and having the freight volume increased.

As a resident of the Adelaide Hills I have my life significantly impacted by the current rail freight path through the Adelaide Hills. I believe there are 4 very significant and genuine reasons for avoiding the continued movement of freight through the current rail line through the Adelaide Hills.

1. The worst and most insidious issue is the highly offensive sound, and volume, of freight train rail squeal. This by-product of heavy rail movement through the Adelaide Hills has increased many times over in the time I have lived in Blackwood, with a huge increase marked by the laying of concrete sleepers and the subsequent significant increase in rail freight movements through the Adelaide Hills.
2. Another area of significant impact in the Adelaide Hills area is the disruption to traffic by the railway crossing 2 major roads at level crossings. Every day at peak times there are complete stoppages of busy roads caused by freight trains. These result in lengthy delays to traffic, and I suspect considerably increased levels of pollution issued by idling motor vehicle.
3. Road safety is an area of significant concern. I believe there is a significant risk of a serious road/rail accident due to mixing busy major roads with freight trains at level crossings.
4. Safety of residents is a significant and separate issue to the motoring issue. The potential for serious injury to residents and damage to their property was graphically illustrated by the 2004 derailment. That derailment did not cause injury, although significant road delays did result.

With the increase in rail traffic the potential for a derailment or level crossing accident are markedly increased. In addition, the delays to traffic and the continued unreasonable impact on residents' lives by the shriek of rail squeal will increase proportionally.

I urge the study to consider more than just the easily calculable economic implications of the rail freight route and factor in the significant impact on the community imposed by noise, traffic delay, and safety issues.

*Robin Butler*

Blackwood Resident