

# News Release

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Minister Assist. Premier with South Australia's Strategic Plan

**Hon Tom Kenyon**

Minister for Recreation, Sport & Racing

Minister for Road Safety

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister Assist. Premier with South Australia's Strategic Plan

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## **MOTORCYCLE BARRIERS EXTENDED ALONG GORGE ROAD**

Motorcycle safety in the Adelaide Hills is further being improved with the extension of a motorcycle barriers trial along Gorge Road this month.

Road Safety Minister, Tom Kenyon says the new barriers consist of a new type of light steel rail to stop fallen riders from sliding under the existing barriers and hitting roadside hazards.

"These new barriers are designed to provide a significant improvement in motorcycle safety as the light steel rail is suspended in place with brackets to allow them to bend and flex when struck," Mr Kenyon said.

"They absorb energy during impact and deflect a rider away from the impact point, shielding riders from hitting roadside hazards like trees or poles and helping to prevent potentially fatal crashes.

"The new barriers being installed along Gorge Road between Batchelor Road, Castambul and Retreat Valley Road, Gumeracha will complement the existing roadside barrier system already in place.

"Gorge Road was identified as a priority for the installation of barriers following 63 casualty crashes involving motorcyclists between 2000-2010, resulting in nine fatalities, 22 serious injuries and 32 minor injuries over the 14 kilometre stretch of road.

"The new barriers are also being trialled on a section of the Cudlee Creek to Lobethal Road where there were 28 casualty crashes between 2000-2010 resulting in 2 fatalities, 11 serious injuries and 15 minor injuries.

"If the new barriers are successful, then we'll look at trials at other locations," Mr Kenyon said.

"We've already had 11 motorcycle deaths on our roads this year, so it's vital that all riders are aware of the risks they face, particularly during the winter months and that they take responsibility for their own safety by wearing the right protective gear.

"Motorcyclists are 30 times more likely to be killed on our roads than motorists because they're fully exposed to all the elements and are particularly vulnerable to injury if they're involved in a crash," Mr Kenyon said.

The \$180,000 project on Gorge Road forms part of the State Government's ***Responsive Road Safety Program***.

Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month, depending on weather conditions.