



# Royal Hotel closure blamed on O'Bahn extension due to 'dust and noise'

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**Ongoing roadworks for the O'Bahn busway tunnel project in Adelaide's inner-east is to blame for the closure of a pub and the loss of 20 jobs, an administrator says.**

Worrells Solvency revealed the Royal Hotel at Kent Town has been placed in administration after suffering an 80 per cent drop in trade since the roadworks started on Hackney Road.

Nick Cooper from Worrells Solvency said the leaseholder was forced to close the business as the roadworks were expected to continue for another 12 months.

"Access was certainly a problem," Mr Cooper said.

"There was difficulties in just getting into the car park of the hotel, but a lot of the patrons were also complaining about the noise and the dust from the roadworks.

"They've got a beer garden that was directly affected by the noise and dust."

Owners of the nearby Hackney Hotel have said their business was also struggling due to the project.

Sam McInnes from the Hurley Hotel Group said people did not want to come to the area.



**PHOTO:** Extensive road restrictions are in place along Hackney Road and Dequetteville Terrace.  
(ABC News: Malcolm Sutton)

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"We have seen a significant drop in trade at the Hackney Hotel and although the Government has been pretty informative as to what's happening with the roadworks, we probably didn't foresee the longevity of the interruption to our business," Mr McInnes said.

"The Hackney is a predominate function centre so people are a bit reluctant about booking functions at the hotel because of the risk of delays in getting to the hotel and being able to get to the meetings on time."

## Government has 'worked extensively with hotel'

A Transport and Infrastructure Department spokeswoman said staff from the O-Bahn City Access Project had worked extensively with the Royal Hotel throughout the project.

She said that included changing construction "methodology to reduce nightshift sheet piling from 7.5 weeks to less than two weeks", and a two-month reduction in overall works on the Hackney Road/Dequetteville Terrace intersection.

It also included gifting a \$750 bar tab to a person who had booked a 30th birthday party in an upstairs function room because it would take place at the same time as sheet piling night works.

The spokeswoman said the project's contractors chose the venue to celebrate a key project milestone.

"In addition, the Office of the Small Business Commissioner provided extensive assistance across the group's hotel portfolio, which included the Victor Harbor, Mawson Lakes and Royal hotels," she said.

The O-Bahn extension project is expected to be completed by late 2017.

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