

Roadworks claim their first shop



CLOSING DOWN: Dulwich Bakery owner Wayne Duffy is closing his King William Rd shop due to stagnant trade and roadworks.

CRAIG COOK

THE owner of a popular bakery chain says he is the first victim of the \$15.5 million King William Rd upgrade but doubts he will be the last.

Dulwich Bakery owner Wayne Duffy says the start of the nine-month roadworks project, coupled with stagnant trade, was the final straw that had forced the closure of his Hyde Park outlet.

"This closure will dint my business overall but I've sn-



inoful financial assistance to

"I've had no direct contact

crisis (2008). When I took on the lease two years ago I thought it was time for Hyde Park to begin to improve – but it has continued to decline."

The Advertiser understands a significant number of businesses on the road operate on a month by month leasing arrangement.

Two prominent business owners have stated off the record they don't expect to last beyond winter.

Unley chief executive Peter Tsokas said his council had

business system, but I've spoken to sole operators who believe this project will devastate them," Mr Duffy said.

"The only ones that will survive are the ones who will work very long hours and don't pay themselves a proper wage."

He was critical of Unley Council's timing with the road upgrade and what he described as its lack of action on "mean-

ing and minimum assistance to appease traders".

Mr Duffy opened his first bakery 16 years ago, followed by nine other outlets.

He said as a respected businessman with three stores in the Unley area, including at Malvern and in the Unley Shopping Centre, he expected someone from the council to contact him.

"I've had no direct contact with council and they haven't responded to some emails," he said. "I'm really disappointed Unley decided they are going to do this upgrade regardless and were not going to assist traders with rate relief.

"Everyone knows the road is not trading well and this is a much tougher time in retail than during the world financial

crisis. I think the council has been informed the Dulwich Bakery was closing prior to the road closures.

"We understand the business was listed for sale some six months ago," Mr Tsokas said.

"We are sad to hear of any business closing in the Unley Council area and wish Mr Duffy all the best with future endeavours, understanding