

**Hon Steven Marshall MP**

Premier

**Hon Stephan Knoll MP**

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government

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## **Record regional roads investment to help save lives on country roads**

The Marshall Government is delivering a record \$1.115 billion for regional road projects and infrastructure upgrades across the state in the 2019-20 State Budget.

This includes a record \$878 million of new funding for regional roads and infrastructure that will help save lives on our country roads and build regional communities.

It is the single biggest injection of new funding in a State Budget for regional roads in South Australia's history.

This builds on other projects announced in last year's State Budget including the \$200 million Duplication of the Joy Baluch AM Bridge project, the \$90 million Port Wakefield Overpass and Highway Duplication project and the \$14.6 million Penola Bypass project.

Key regional infrastructure projects outlined in the 2019-20 State Budget include;

- Improving our Regional Roads initiative (\$330 million over 8 years), which includes;
  - \$143 million towards road upgrades, including additional overtaking lanes and shoulder sealing;
  - \$92 million for duplication of Victor Harbor Road between Main South Road and McLaren Vale;
  - \$55 million for the Horrocks Highway Corridor;
  - \$14 million to support the relocation of the Thomas Foods Facility;
  - \$14 million towards the Naracoorte and Kroemers Crossing roundabout;
  - \$11 million for increased Dublin Saleyards access; and,
  - \$1 million to open Bratten Bridge to road trains.
- Roads of Strategic Importance (\$275 million);
  - \$87.5 million to upgrade the Sturt Highway from Renmark to Gawler;
  - \$62.5 million to upgrade the Barrier Highway from Cockburn to Burra; and,
  - \$125 million to upgrade South Australia's section of the Eyre Highway from Port Augusta to Perth – including \$32 million to upgrade Eyre Peninsula Roads following the closure of the rail line.
- Princes Highway upgrade (\$250 million);
- \$237.1 million over four years for regional road maintenance; and,
- Regional and remote airstrips (\$1.8 million).

The Government continues its ongoing commitment to the Regional Roads and Infrastructure Fund (\$341 million over four years);

Premier Marshall said that the road toll this year is unacceptably high, and that improving the condition of our regional roads is one element of a broader response to slashing this figure.

***“This senseless loss of life on our roads simply has to stop,”*** said Premier Marshall.

“The State Liberal Government is injecting in excess of one billion dollars into regional road projects and infrastructure upgrades which is part of our commitment to improve road safety, as well as help build regional communities and create jobs.

“This is the single biggest investment in regional roads in South Australia’s history, and a true reflection of the value we place on our regions and saving lives on our roads.

“Regional South Australia is the backbone of our economy and our exports, and I’m confident that this record investment will unlock further economic potential across a range of industries, from agriculture to mining.

“Our commitment, pure and simple, is focused on building productive infrastructure that facilitates growth, productivity and job creation in our regions so that our farmers and entire state can flourish.”

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Planning Stephan Knoll said that it was no secret that after 16 years of Labor our regional road network was suffering from massive underinvestment.

“We know that the majority of road deaths every year occur in our regions and while there are many factors to a road accident, the condition of the road can play a significant part,” said Minister Knoll.

“That’s why we are investing record levels of new funding to make our country roads safer.

“This massive investment to upgrade regional roads across the state will help save lives on our country roads.

“This massive investment will underpin regional road upgrades for years.”