

Regional roads investment to help save lives, improve safety and build regional communities

18/06/2019 | Stephan Knoll MP | Better Services | More Jobs

The Marshall Liberal Government is delivering a record \$1.1 billion for regional road projects and infrastructure upgrades across the state over 8 years 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.

Some of the record \$1.1 billion in regional infrastructure projects over 8 years outlined in the 2019-20 State Budget include:

- Road upgrades, including additional overtaking lanes and shoulder sealing (\$143 million);
- Eyre Highway (\$125 million to upgrade South Australia's section from Port Augusta to Perth – including \$32 million to upgrade Eyre Peninsula Roads following the closure of the rail line);

- Sturt Highway from Renmark to Gawler (\$87.5 million);
- Barrier Highway from Cockburn to Burra (\$62.5 million);
- Princes Highway upgrade (\$250 million);
- Horrocks Highway Corridor (\$55 million);
- Duplication of Victor Harbor Road between Main South Road and McLaren Vale (\$92 million);
- Granite Island causeway refurbishment (\$20 million);
- \$14 million to support the construction of the new Thomas Foods Facility;
- \$14 million towards the Naracoorte and Kroemers Crossing roundabouts;
- \$11 million for increased Dublin Saleyards access; and,
- Regional and remote airstrips (\$1.8 million)
- Kangaroo Island roads (\$1 million);
- \$1 million to open Bratten Bridge to road trains.

These initiatives are in addition to the existing annual regional maintenance program worth \$237 million over 4 years.

The Government's investment in regional infrastructure is supported by the Government's commitment to make available 30 per cent of mineral and petroleum royalties towards the Regional Roads and Infrastructure Fund (\$341 million over four years).

These road projects build 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.

"The Marshall Government is investing record amounts in regional roads to improve road safety in our regions, as well as help build regional communities and create jobs," said Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government Stephan Knoll.

"It's no secret that after 16 years of Labor our regional road network was suffering from massive underinvestment.

"We also 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.

“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.

“The 2019-20 State Budget will also deliver on another election commitment to re-introduce the 110km/h speed limits on the eight country roads reduced under the former Labor government.

“The former Labor administration treated the regions with contempt and slashed speed limits instead of investing in the regional road network.

“The new funding includes fixing two of the state’s most notorious regional roads by investing \$92 million to duplicate part of Victor Harbor Road and \$55 million to fix the Horrocks Highway.

“The Marshall Government knows how important it is to keep building our regions which form the backbone of South Australia’s economy.

“We will help unlock the economic potential in our regions by ensuring South Australia has the regional road network to encourage new investment and improve productivity for existing regional businesses.

“For example, our \$14 million investment to support Thomas Foods’ new state-of-the art meat processing plant at Murray Bridge, which is set to bolster the state’s regional economy and create up to 2,000 jobs.

“Similarly, we will improve access to the Dublin Saleyards and open the Bratten Bridge to road trains to help facilitate more growth, productivity and job creation in our regions.”

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