



## **The Hon Michael McCormack MP**

Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development  
Leader of The Nationals  
Federal Member for Riverina

## **The Hon Stephan Knoll MP**

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government  
State Member for Schubert

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 23 July 2019

## **BUILDING REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS RAMPS UP**

The Morrison and Marshall Governments are continuing to build regional South Australia, today releasing an Expression of Interest (EOI) and tenders for three key regional road projects totalling over \$300 million in project value.

The Morrison and Marshall Governments have funded these important regional projects on an 80:20 basis, which include;

- \$200 million Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication Project;
- \$90 million Port Wakefield Overpass and Highway Duplication Project; and
- \$14.6 million Penola Northern Bypass Project.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) to prequalified industry groups will be released today for major works on the Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication and Port Wakefield Overpass and Highway Duplication projects.

Once tenderers provide responses to the EOI, submissions will be evaluated, with two shortlisted tenderers invited in September 2019, to submit an offer, as part of the next stage of the procurement.

The procurement will ensure best for project outcomes, whilst importantly ensuring local small to medium enterprises are given the opportunity to deliver key aspects of these important projects, under the main works contract.

This EOI also includes a planning study and construction works for a jointly-funded section of duplication, together with overtaking lane improvements on the Augusta Highway.

A tender will be released for construction of the Penola Northern Bypass, with the contract expected to be awarded late in the last quarter of 2019.

Major construction works on the Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication and Port Wakefield Overpass and Highway Duplication projects are expected to begin in 2020, with completion expected in 2022.

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The Hon Michael McCormack MP

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Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said the Federal Liberal and Nationals Government was pleased to be supporting these vital projects and that the benefits would be wide ranging.

“Each of these projects will boost safety and deliver travel time savings for everyday South Australians and the tourists that visit the state’s beautiful attractions,” Mr McCormack said.

“The Joy Baluch AM Bridge duplication and the Penola Northern Bypass projects in particular will have a positive impact on freight productivity.

“On the bypass, local traffic will be separated from freight vehicles - enabling freight drivers to get their products and produce to where it needs to be sooner and safer.”

The Penola Bypass aims to significantly reduce heavy vehicle traffic volumes through the Penola township, reduce conflict between heavy vehicles, pedestrians and local traffic within Penola and reduce travel time and create improved access for heavy vehicles.

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government Stephan Knoll said the Marshall Government had built an \$11.9 billion pipeline of infrastructure projects over the next four years.

“The Marshall Government, working with the Morrison Coalition Government, was able to announce a record \$1.115 billion in new regional road and infrastructure funding in the most recent State Budget,” said Minister Knoll.

“After 16 long years of Labor our regional roads have been neglected and important regional road projects overlooked.

“The Marshall Government is investing to build the regional roads and infrastructure South Australia needs.

“We will now see shovels in the ground from next year as we build these important regional road projects.

“These regional road projects will make country roads safer, build regional communities and unlock economic potential in the regions.

“Every long weekend and holiday period we see massive queues of cars trying to get on or off the Yorke Peninsula and that’s why we are building the long-awaited overpass and duplicating part of that road.

“The Joy Baluch Bridge duplication project has significant economic importance to South Australia as the access point across the Spencer Gulf.”

## **Project Background**

### **Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication Project**

The Joy Baluch AM Bridge is an important link in the National Land Transport Network at Port Augusta, providing access across the Spencer Gulf for commuter, commercial and freight vehicles in the northern region of South Australia. It is also a key tourist connection to the Eyre Peninsula, northern South Australia and beyond.

The duplication of the bridge will improve road safety and efficiency for all users, improve freight productivity and importantly improve the resilience of this critical road link. It will also address the current bridge speed restrictions and safety for people walking or cycling across the bridge.

The project will upgrade and duplicate the existing Joy Baluch AM Bridge to allow for two lanes of travel in each direction across the upper Spencer Gulf.

### **Port Wakefield Overpass and Highway Duplication Project**

The Augusta Highway and Copper Coast Highway, north of Port Wakefield, is one of the State's busiest regional road junctions being a national and regional link between Adelaide, Port Augusta and the Yorke Peninsula.

Port Wakefield Road typically carries 8,600 vehicles per day however this increases to around 14,500 during holiday peak periods. As a result of high-holiday traffic volumes and conflicting traffic movements and lengthy queues have been experienced causing substantial delays.

The project will duplicate the Port Wakefield Highway from the end of the existing duplicated Port Wakefield Highway, through the Port Wakefield Township to the junction of Copper Coast Highway / Augusta Highway.

The project includes an overpass at the junction of the Copper Coast Highway / Augusta Highway, to improve access to the Port Wakefield Highway for people travelling south from the Yorke Peninsula, as well as a realigned Balaklava Road.

### **Penola Northern Bypass Project**

The Penola Northern Bypass forms part of a commitment to deliver a complete bypass of the Penola Township, which is a joint initiative of the Australian and South Australian Governments and the Wattle Range Council.

It will be a continuation of the Penola Southern Bypass, from Robe Road to the Riddoch Highway, just north of the Penola Township.

The project includes:

- Construction of a new 2.2 kilometre undivided, sealed rural arterial road with sealed shoulders.
- Construction of a T-junction at the Riddoch Highway (Church Street) where the new Northern Bypass will connect to the Highway to the north of the Penola township.
- Upgrade of the junction at the Penola Bypass and the Robe to Clay Wells Road (where the Northern Bypass and Southern Bypass meet) to a staggered T-junction.

- Realignment of the Riddoch Highway (Church Street) T-junction with the existing Southern Bypass to the south of the Penola township to make the Bypass the through road.
- Road LED lighting at the three junctions and drainage infrastructure.

Early survey works have commenced, with construction works expected to start in late 2019.

The bypass is expected to be open to traffic in the second quarter of 2020, with main works expected to complete by the end of June 2020.

The Penola Bypass aims to significantly reduce heavy vehicle traffic volumes through the Penola township, reduce conflict between heavy vehicles, pedestrians and local traffic within Penola and reduce travel time and create improved access for heavy vehicles.

The bypass will cater for commercial vehicles travelling on the Robe to Clay Wells Road and the Riddoch Highway generated from timber plantations in the area, and improve freight efficiencies supporting the Limestone Coast region's highly productive economy.

The Australian Government is contributing \$11.7 million for the construction of the Northern Bypass, with the South Australian Government providing the remaining \$2.9 million.

Wattle Range Council also contributed, funding the property acquisition requirements for the bypass.

Construction of the Penola Southern Bypass, Stage 1 of the Penola Bypass, was completed on 10 April 2015.

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