

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **MID MURRAY COUNCIL WELCOMES TRURO BYPASS FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Australian Government's announcement this week that it will provide \$161.6 million towards the construction of a Sturt Highway bypass around the town of Truro has been welcomed by the Mid Murray Council.

The bypass will remove through-traffic including heavy vehicles from Truro's main street, improving safety for road users, residents and pedestrians, as well as enhancing the productivity of the national road network for freight transport.

The project is expected to cost \$202 million, with works anticipated to begin in late 2022 and an estimated construction completion date in late 2026.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the Council had worked closely with the local Truro community over many years to lobby for the construction of the bypass.

"The Truro bypass has been identified as a priority infrastructure project for some time and Council and the Truro and District Community Association have continued to advocate for this vital piece of infrastructure to address ongoing pedestrian and road safety concerns," Mayor Burgess says.

"We are grateful to both the State and Federal Governments which have been working together in recent years to develop the Truro bypass concept. This week's funding announcement – and news that construction will likely begin in 2022 – will be welcomed by our community."

Council and the Truro community have for decades had concerns about road safety along the Truro stretch of the Sturt Highway, with heavy vehicles often speeding through the town's main street, which is frequented at peak times by school children and pedestrians. In 2018, an out-of-control B-double wiped out a fence and nearly crashed into a Truro house.

"The construction of a bypass will ensure the safety of our community, while also improving efficiency for freight and other heavy vehicle transport, which will be able to travel safely around Truro via the new route," Mayor Burgess says.

"While we fully support the construction of the bypass, Council is also eager to ensure that measures are taken to continue to put the focus on safety for all in Truro's main street over the next six to seven years until the new bypass is in place.

"We are also committed to working with the Truro community and its business operators to prepare the town for the changes – and new opportunities – that this project will present. We have time now to focus on how Truro can capitalise on and enhance what will become a visitor and pedestrian friendly main street to ensure it continues to grow and thrive once a significant amount of that heavy vehicle traffic is removed."

The Truro bypass funding is part of the Australian Government's infrastructure investment in its 2021/22 Budget, which will be released on Tuesday, 11 May. For more information, visit [www.pm.gov.au/media/federal-budget-supports-south-australias-recovery-plan](http://www.pm.gov.au/media/federal-budget-supports-south-australias-recovery-plan).

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