

MEDIA RELEASE

\$3.1M ROAD UPGRADE TO BOOST FREIGHT ACCESS, ROAD SAFETY IN MID MURRAY

Freight access and road safety will be improved in the Mid Murray region, with a \$3.1 million major upgrade planned for a key heavy vehicle route to start construction during the 21/22 financial year.

Mid Murray Council will go ahead with plans for Stage 1 of the upgrade to continue the sealing of Murraylands Road, with the project fast-tracked thanks to a \$1.55 million grant provided through the SA Government's Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program announced this week. Council will match the grant with its own \$1.55 million contribution.

The project will significantly improve an 8km stretch of Murraylands Road between Blanchetown and Morgan, which serves as a critical freight route.

Structural improvements to the road including extending the width of the sealed road will increase its load capacity for heavy vehicles, enhance access for primary producers and improve safety for both freight and passenger vehicles. The upgrade will also allow larger capacity freight vehicles to use the route, reducing the overall number of heavy vehicles needed to transport freight in the area.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said Murraylands Road was an important road freight link and fast-tracking its redevelopment would bring multiple benefits to the region.

"This section of road carries multiple users, with a heavy focus on intra and interstate freight and localised freight from our intensive farming and primary production industries," Mayor Burgess says.

"By upgrading this route, we'll be enabling safe access for larger freight vehicles, making it more efficient for producers to carry their produce to processors and markets, while also reducing the overall volume of heavy freight movements because fewer vehicles will be required.

"Murraylands Road is also an important access road for locals and tourists, especially those travelling to holiday homes or wanting to access the river. These works will also substantially improve the safety and ease of access for these motorists.

"We are grateful to the SA Government for its contribution, which will allow us to bring forward the first stage of this vital road project."

In the longer term, Council aims to upgrade the entire stretch of Murraylands Road between Thiele Highway, Morgan and the Sturt Highway, Blanchetown. It will continue to seek other external funding opportunities to assist with progressing the estimated additional \$3.1 million to cover these additional works.

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