

9 February 2021

MEDIA RELEASE



MAJOR INVESTMENT IN SOUTHERN MALLEE ROADS FOR 2020/21

Increased investment is delivering safer, more accessible roads across the Southern Mallee.

Southern Mallee District Council is prioritising road projects and purchasing new equipment to deliver the upgrades, with a new \$380,000 grader bought by Council, already put to use. Council is also funding a new tipper truck (\$250,000), which will arrive this month. Both replace older models and will ensure Council's road upgrade program continues to roll out efficiently and effectively.

More than \$1.63 million in road resheeting and construction projects is planned this financial year. Already for 2020/21 there has been \$525,000 worth of priority road projects completed, including improvements to Beehive Road (4km), O'Loughlin Road (4.8km) and Lamerook South Road (5.2km).

Work is now underway on resheeting O'Driscoll Road (5km section), with Karte West Road (4km), and Longtrail Road (3km) to follow – adding a further investment of \$458,000.

An additional \$502,000 will help reconstruct Kulkami and Billiatt Roads, with those works to begin this week. The Kulkami and Billiatt Roads upgrade project has been two-thirds funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Southern Mallee District Council Mayor Jeff Nickolls said local roads were critical to supporting the district's economy, connectivity and resident safety.

"Our roads are our lifeline in many ways, enabling our rural businesses to produce, thrive and grow," Mayor Nickolls says.

"Not only this, but the hundreds of kilometres of local roads help connect residents with essential services and with each other, allowing our community to build social networks and support individual wellbeing.

"Council recognises the importance of a safe, high-functioning road network and we're continuing to prioritise road maintenance and upgrades to improve access for everyone in our community.

"Even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff have continued to work on road and infrastructure projects to keep our community connected and safe."

The roadworks are part of a wider \$6.95m infrastructure and engineering budget being delivered by Council this financial year (up from \$3.9m the previous financial year and up from less than \$2m in 2018/19). This year's program has had a significant boost because of Council's success in attracting significant State and Federal funding support.

Other major projects have included the renewal of the Pinnaroo airstrip, upgrades to the Pinnaroo and Lamerook pools, \$150,000 to improve footpaths, \$150,000 to reseal a section of Billiatt Road in March/April and a major upgrade to Pinnaroo's Community Wastewater Management Scheme.

– ENDS –

Media contacts:

Southern Mallee District Council Chief Executive Officer Jason Taylor
P: (08) 8577 8002 | E: jason.taylor@southernmallee.sa.gov.au