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SACOME welcomes \$1bn in Infrastructure Spend for the Regions

The South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy (SACOME) welcomes State Government spend on regional infrastructure projects to drive connectivity, productivity, and safety in the regions.

SACOME has long called on the Government to prioritise infrastructure funding on impactful, strategic, and long-term outcomes that enable access to the State's mineral provinces, future-proof the State and continue to stimulate the economy.

This includes the upgrade and maintenance of regional and remote roads which are critical to the operation and development of the resources sector and enable a more connected and sustainable regional South Australia.

Key State Government infrastructure projects that will benefit the resources sector and broader community include:

- Augusta Highway Duplication, 28km stretch between Port Wakefield and Lochiel (\$260m)
- Augusta Highway improvements to four key junctions between Redhill and Winninowie (part of \$190m Princes Highway Corridor Program)
- Augusta Highway improvements to two key junctions south of Crystal Brook (part of \$266.3m Princes Highway Corridor Upgrade)
- Installation of overtaking lanes on Horrocks Highway, between Wilmington and Gawler (part of \$105m Horrocks Highway Corridor Upgrade)
- Olympic Dam Highway repairs following flood damage (part of \$75m to improve national supply chain resilience)

The Federal and State Governments will also contribute a combined \$500 million over the next decade on upgrades to the Stuart, Dukes, and Augusta highways.

The spend will partly address South Australia's road maintenance backlog which has blown out in recent years from \$723 million in 2017 to nearly \$2 billion in 2023, with many regional corridors in desperate need of repair.

SACOME is currently in Port Augusta for the Upper Spencer Gulf regional conference which brings together industry, suppliers, and government to foster industry growth in the State's regions.

Quotes attributable to SACOME CEO, Rebecca Knol:

"As the backbone of the State's economy, the growth of the resources sector is dependent on reliable supply chain routes, safe and efficient transport corridors, and the funding of critical infrastructure to enable greater access to the State's mineral provinces."

"South Australia has a road network comprising some 10,000km of road and the maintenance of these roads, particularly regional roads with economic significance, is critical for the safe and efficient supply of goods and services across South Australia."

"While regional and remote roads are primarily a safety, logistics and efficiency issue for the resource sector, they also impact a wide range of other sectors and communities including pastoralists, freight operators and tourists."

"As acknowledged by Minister Koutsantonis, our state's infrastructure is crucial for driving business, creating jobs and keeping South Australia connected."

"It is vital that the momentum of infrastructure and road maintenance funding is maintained to ensure the improved safety and reliability of supply chain routes for all industries."

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About SACOME

The [South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy](http://www.sacome.org.au) is the peak industry association representing companies with interests and connections to the South Australian resources and energy sector.