



\$25M for South Gippsland Highway

If re-elected, the Federal Government will allocate \$25 million to the South Gippsland Highway, to be matched dollar-for-dollar with the State Government.

In announcing the funding commitment, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Member for Gippsland, Darren Chester, said he expected a share of the funding would be used to fix the notorious Black Spur section of the highway, south of Koonwarra.

Describing the funding allocation as a “major breakthrough”, Mr Chester said the commitment provided a strong business case for the State Government to “step up to the plate”.

Council CEO, Tim Tamlin, said this announcement was exciting news for the region and a huge step forward in securing what had been an ongoing priority project.

“The Black Spur has been in need of a major overhaul for some time and this commitment demonstrates the importance of getting it done. Council and the community have lobbied tirelessly for this result and the funding will not only change lives, but it will save lives,” he said.

As well as a priority project for Council, the realignment of the Black Spur has been at the top of the priority list for the South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS) group, represented by Cr Jeanette Harding, and the Gippsland Road Safety Network, supported by Cr Nigel Hutchinson-Brooks.

“The realignment of the Black Spur is a project that affects so many, it has been on the agenda of various community groups, committees and networks for some time and this, along with the Federal Government’s funding commitment, builds a strong business case for the State Government to match the funding,” Mr Tamlin explained.

Federal Member for McMillan, Russell Broadbent, said he would consult with VicRoads and the community to ensure local residents, freight operators and visitors to the region would have a say on the best realignment option to ensure a safe journey.

“There are also other sections of the highway further east towards Yarram that require upgrades and I will be working with the Minister to ensure these areas are not forgotten,” he said.

In light of the announcement, State Member for Gippsland South, Danny O’Brien, said he would be meeting with Minister for Roads, Road Safety and Ports, Luke Donnellan.

“The funding commitment from the Federal Government makes it easier for the State Government to kick in the balance,” he said. “I want to make sure that happens.”

Photo Captions:

- 1. State Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Member for Gippsland, Darren Chester and Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath announcing the Federal Government's \$25M for the South Gippsland Highway at Black Spur.*
- 2. Federal Member for McMillan Russell Broadbent, State Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath, Mayor Cr Bob Newton, Cr Mohya Davies, Cr Jeanette Harding, CEO Tim Tamlin, Cr Andrew McEwen, Cr Nigel Hutchinson-Brooks, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Darren Chester.*

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