



The Coalition's Policy to Support the Continued Upgrade of Adelaide's North-South Road Corridor

August 2013

Key Points

The Coalition will invest \$500 million to support the continued upgrade of the North-South Road corridor.

The Coalition envisages that our \$500 million commitment will be directed to the South Road upgrade recommended by the 'Darlington Transport Study.' This study recommended an upgrade of South Road where it connects to the Southern Expressway.

The project will include:

- South Road reconfigured between the Southern Expressway and north of Sturt Road into an expressway-standard road incorporating road network modifications;
- grade separation of South Road as an underpass extending below Flinders Drive and Sturt Road; and
- connection of the Darlington Interchange with the Southern Expressway to provide for two way flow.

In keeping with the Coalition's commitment to increase transparency in the funding of infrastructure, the Coalition will request that Infrastructure Australia undertake and publish a cost-benefit analysis of the project.

We have a clear plan for delivering the infrastructure our cities and country need.

Under the Coalition, vital transport projects will be underway across the country within twelve months of an election so that you spend less time in traffic and more time with your family.



Introduction

Infrastructure is key to Australia's competitiveness.

Better infrastructure underpins services, such as transport and logistics, and water and energy. Inefficient infrastructure networks are one of the key reasons why Australia's productivity has declined and are also a key driver of the cost of living pressures affecting Australians.

Under the Coalition, vital transport projects will be underway across the country within twelve months of an election.

We have already committed:

- \$6.7 billion to fix Queensland's Bruce Highway;
- \$1.5 billion to get construction underway on Melbourne's East West Link;
- \$1.5 billion to ensure the Westconnex project gets underway in Sydney;
- \$1 billion to support the Gateway Motorway upgrade in Brisbane;
- \$686 million to complete Perth's Gateway without the mining tax;
- \$615 million to build the Swan Valley Bypass on the Perth-Darwin Highway;
- \$500 million to support the upgrade of Adelaide's North-South Road Corridor;
- \$400 million to upgrade the Midland Highway in Tasmania; and
- \$5.6 billion to complete the duplication of the Pacific Highway from Newcastle to the Queensland border.

In addition, the Coalition will:

- work with the NSW Government to get Sydney's F3 to M2 started by late 2014, which will mean shorter travel times, reduced congestion and safer roads for the residents of the Central Coast;
- get the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing underway;
- \$25 million to upgrade the iconic Great Ocean Road; and
- build the National Broadband Network sooner and for tens of billions of dollars less than Labor's NBN.

The Coalition has a clear and definitive plan to build the nationally significant infrastructure our cities and country needs.



The Importance of Adelaide's North-South Corridor

Road congestion in Adelaide is forecast to cost the South Australian economy over \$1 billion by 2020.¹

The South Australian Government has noted that:

*"The north-south movement of people and goods between Darlington and Wingfield is arguably the most important component of the road transport system in metropolitan Adelaide. It provides connections to the major inter-modal transport hubs of Adelaide Airport, Port Adelaide, Outer Harbour and the Islington Rail Terminal, as well as providing access to the bulk of Adelaide's industry activity in the northwest sector and residential and tourist areas to the south on the Fleurieu Peninsula."*²

The Royal Automobile Association of South Australia has noted the benefits of the upgrade, saying:

*"We have been campaigning for the upgrade of South Road between Darlington and Wingfield for a long time... Improvements to this section of South Road will provide relief for motorists... By addressing congestion once and for all will deliver road safety and economic for everyone using South Road."*³

An upgrade to the North-South Road corridor will help reduce Adelaide's road congestion and boost productivity.

The Plan

Reduce Traffic Congestion in Adelaide – Upgrade the North-South Road Corridor

The Coalition will invest \$500 million to support the continued upgrade of the North-South Road corridor.

The commitment is part of the Coalition's *Real Solutions Plan for Australia*, which provides funding toward major road projects across Australia.

The North-South Road Corridor Upgrade will link the expanding residential growth areas of Adelaide and deliver the world-class infrastructure that South Australia deserves.

¹ Department of Transport and Regional Services (2007) *Estimating Urban Traffic and Congestion Cost Trends for Australian Cities*, p.xv.

² <http://www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au/darlington>

³ <http://cms.wc.raa.net/page.aspx?TerID=1237&act=detail&id=892>



Inadequate road infrastructure and traffic congestion are impacting the productivity of Adelaide.

The Coalition envisages that our \$500 million commitment will be directed to the South Road upgrade recommended by the 'Darlington Transport Study.' This study recommended an upgrade of South Road where it connects to the Southern Expressway.

The project will include:

- South Road reconfigured between the Southern Expressway and north of Sturt Road into an expressway-standard road incorporating road network modifications;
- grade separation of South Road as an underpass extending below Flinders Drive and Sturt Road; and
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In keeping with the Coalition's commitment to increase transparency in the funding of infrastructure, the Coalition will request that Infrastructure Australia undertake and publish a cost-benefit analysis of the project.

We will work with the South Australian Government to get a business case developed for this project and for the remaining sections of the North-South Road Corridor that need to be upgraded.

The business case will be assessed by Infrastructure Australia. The Coalition is confident that the project would pass an Infrastructure Australia's analysis on a stand-alone basis.

We expect construction to commence within the first term of a Coalition government. The entire North-South Road Corridor Upgrade is a major project that will take many years and a Coalition government will work with the South Australian Government to ensure we can make it a reality.

The timing of payments will depend on construction progress and be developed in consultation with the State Government.

The Coalition's \$500 million commitment will reduce congestion and improve Adelaide's productivity, which means you will spend less time in traffic and more time with your family, goods and services will get to market faster and at less cost, which will deliver an overall improvement in national productivity and competitiveness.



The Choice

Instead of promoting investment and jobs growth in South Australia, the Rudd-Gillard Government has slugged the economy with the mining tax and the carbon tax.

The Rudd-Gillard Government has fundamentally failed to deliver infrastructure that will increase productivity and help Australia deal with our ageing population.

Kevin Rudd promised the Building Australia Fund would get \$20 billion from budget surpluses, but he relied on funds put aside by the Howard Government to establish his Fund. He then proceeded to draw down on the Fund to pay for home insulation and school halls. The Building Australia Fund now has just a quarter of the amount promised by Kevin Rudd and that quarter comes almost entirely from the surpluses of the Howard Government.

Only 14 per cent of Kevin Rudd's stimulus spending was directed to productivity enhancing infrastructure.

In the 2008-09 Budget, the Rudd-Gillard Government stated that efficient public infrastructure investment requires a "commitment to transparency at all stages of the decision making process."

Yet only a year later, the Rudd-Gillard Government did not release the cost-benefit analysis of the 15 projects (amounting to \$80 billion of investment) selected for partial government funding in the 2009-10 Budget. Six of these projects were not on Infrastructure Australia's priority list. Labor also decided to build a multi-billion dollar National Broadband Network that will now cost more than \$90 billion with no cost-benefit analysis.

The results of the Rudd-Gillard Government's poor investment in economic infrastructure and lack of transparent cost-benefit analysis are clear:

- our cities suffer from widespread congestion on their road networks;
- our freight centres are hindered by poor infrastructure planning and woeful integration of road, rail and air networks; and
- our export supply chains suffer from under-investment and the legacy of inefficient government ownership.

These problems translate into direct costs for businesses and families.

Under the Coalition, vital transport projects will be underway across the country so that you spend less time in traffic and more time with your family.



Cost

The Coalition will invest \$500 million to support the continued upgrade of the North-South Road corridor. Our commitment will help reduce Adelaide's road congestion and boost productivity.



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Adelaide's 'Darlington Transport Study' Project



Source: South Australian Government (2010) *North-South Corridor Darlington Transport Study*, p.7.



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Hope.
Reward.
Opportunity.



THE NATIONALS *for Regional Australia*

For further details of the Coalition's Plan go to
www.realsolutions.org.au