

Jenny Aitchison

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Helen Dalton

Member for Murray

Dr Joe McGirr

Member for Wagga Wagga

**Media Release****Safer Sturt and Olympic Highways on the way**

Thursday, 26 October 2023

A \$37 million pipeline of work to improve safety on the Sturt and Olympic highways is now being delivered as part of the Minns Labor Government's efforts to reduce the road toll in regional NSW.

The stretch of Olympic Highway from Cowra to Table Top has received a \$26 million funding injection which will lead to the installation of safety barriers, road widening, vegetation removal and improvements to drainage.

An additional \$11 million will be spent on the Sturt Highway for a curve improvement and intersection upgrade at Sandigo and safety improvements at the intersection of Kapooka Road at San Isidore.

As part of the improvements, six kilometres of shoulder widening will be carried out east of the Murray Valley Way intersection at Euston while further curve widenings are planned on the Hay Plains.

Speed zone signage is also set to be made clearer between Forest Hill and Gol Gol.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Jenny Aitchison:

"Despite only one-third of the population living in regional NSW, this group makes up around two-thirds of deaths on our roads and that's why this safety upgrade is so important.

"The Minns Labor Government is committed to continually investing in and improving road safety in country areas and we thank community members for the patience while we undertake this important work.

"I thank local members like Helen Dalton and Dr McGirr who have advocated tirelessly for safer roads for their communities."

Quotes attributable to Member for Murray, Helen Dalton:

"Regional Road safety must be our priority given people from regional areas are most at risk from dangerous roads.

"It's great to see that the Minns government has recognised this and is providing addition funding in key areas.

"No-one values road safety more than regional drivers and it's great to see we are finally being considered when it comes to road funding."

Quotes attributable to Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr:

“This program to improve safety for local and visiting travellers on two of the main highways through the Wagga Wagga electorate is great news for our community.

“I’m especially pleased that the government has responded positively to our advocacy for important safety improvements at the Kapooka Road intersection at San Isidore, and I thank those community members who’ve worked with my office to achieve these much-needed works.

“Sadly, more work is needed to reduce the appalling death toll on regional roads, so I look forward to working with the government and community to make further improvements to our regional roads network.”