

MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE THAN \$27 MILLION TO BOOST FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE IN WESTERN RIVERINA

The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is investing more than \$27 million to upgrade road and rail freight corridors in Western Riverina to keep regional NSW moving forward.

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Faraway said \$19 million will go towards constructing of two rail sidings at Wumbulgal, near Griffith to help lower freight costs for local farmers and primary producers.

“The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is building the infrastructure that matters to move freight faster and more efficiently, reducing the cost of getting goods to market and keeps our state moving forward,” Minister Faraway said.

“It takes an average 10 hours to load a freight train. By upgrading our rail network through projects like the Wumbulgal rail sliding, we allow more freight to be transported per trip, reducing delays and allowing goods and produce to get from farms and factories to our ports and supermarket shelves quicker.

“A lot of work has been put into the development of this project and it is great news we are investing in infrastructure that will directly help freight operators and primary producers such as grain farmers.

“Rail sidings, like the one that will be installed at Wumbulgal, allow freight trains to load and unload goods while simultaneously enabling other passenger and freight trains on the same line to pass.”

Australian Grainlink Managing Director Dean Salvestro said the project will improve processes at their Wumbulgal site.

“Currently, it can take up to 8 hours during mainline loading of bulk and container trains several days per week. The new siding will improve capacity and allow loading activities to proceed without impacting other services on the Junee to Griffith Line,” Mr Salvestro said.

LINX Cargo Care General Manager Wayne Alpen also welcomed news of project delivery funding.

“This project is a very positive step for regional freight operators, we’re pleased to see it progress through to delivery and provide tangible benefits for the movement of freight throughout south-western NSW,” Mr Alpen said.

Minister Farraway said \$8.8 million will also be invested to upgrade critical road freight routes in the Riverina including widening Petty Pine Road and Pimpara Creek Bridge through the latest round of the Fixing Country Roads program.

“Our truckies rely heavily on their roads which have taken a battering during the recent floods. We’re investing the funding now so councils can start the job of repairing roads and building them to be more resilient,” Minister Farraway said.

“Better roads allows us to move freight faster and more efficiently, reducing the cost of getting goods to market, keeping prices low and keeping NSW moving forward.

“A re-elected NSW Liberal and Nationals Government will also invest a further \$300 million to tackle freight pinch points on our road and rail network to keep our economy strong and help secure a brighter future for the state.”

Mayor of Hay Shire Council Carol Oataway welcomes the \$288,00.00 in funding for the Pimpara Creek Bridge widening as part of the Fixing Country Roads Program.

“Once completed this project will provide access for two-way traffic, improving community safety and allow for higher productivity vehicles to carry increased produce, improving freight efficiency,” Ms Oataway said.

Under the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government’s Fixing Country Rail, Twenty-seven projects have been completed, including the recent completion of the 13-kilometre upgrade of the South Coast Line between Berry and Bomaderry, and the 174-kilometre rail upgrade from Junee to Griffith.

Construction work for the rail siding is expected to start in 2023, weather permitting.

Roads funded under latest round of Fixing Country Roads:

Edward River Council	Pretty Pine Road - Widening	\$ 1,736,972.00
Hay Shire Council	MR514 / Pimpara Creek Bridge, Hay - Widening	\$ 288,000.00
Murray River Council	Murray Irrigation Network – Bridge Load Assessments	\$ 3,722,015.00
Murray River Council	Kyalite Road Widening	\$ 3,133,617.00