

Hon Leon Bignell MP

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Hon Geoff Brock MP

Minister for Regional Development

Hon Stephen Mullighan MP

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

Tuesday, 4 April, 2017

Stage 2 of 90-day transport project begins as first stage reaps millions in benefits

The second stage of a transport project - which has already reaped an estimated \$56m in benefits to primary producers - is set to start with a new survey launched at Country Cabinet.

The 90-day project identifies key road transport issues constraining productivity and route access for primary production.

The survey builds on the success of Stage 1 which identified a package of reforms in the *A Modern Transport System for Agriculture: A New Partnership Approach* report.

Among the 50 projects already complete are:

- enabling road train access to the grain facility at Roseworthy
- enabling road train and B double access to the Jamestown saleyards
- the introduction of permits to allow movement of oversize or overmass agricultural machinery at night
- the introduction of quad road trains between Port Augusta and the Northern Territory border
- the introduction of tri-axle dollies for use in road train combinations and
- the introduction of a primary production work diary exemption.

A bypass is currently under construction in Eudunda to provide improved access for B-doubles to the grain silo and bunker sites and works will soon start on an upgrade of the Yorke and Copper Coast highways to allow 36.5m road train access from Port Wakefield to Ardrossan.

The new survey seeks feedback to identify further transport issues constraining productivity, or ideas about how productivity gains could be realised safely through infrastructure upgrades or changes to regulation or policy.

The survey will also seek to better understand existing and potential commodity consolidation points - such as distribution depots, and processing and packing sheds and plants – to maximise access for higher productivity vehicles.

Background

This project is a collaboration between Primary Industries and Regions SA, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and Primary Producers SA.

Anyone can participate in the new survey, which is available, along with the status report on the first project, at www.pir.sa.gov.au/agtransport. The survey closes on May 15.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell

As a Government we have been working closely with the agricultural sector to identify improvements which may seem small but can make a big difference in terms of productivity.

Already Stage 1 is estimated to have reaped more than \$50m in benefits for our farming sector – important operational savings given our agricultural, food and wine industries generate more than \$18b in annual revenue and account for almost half of the State's merchandise exports.

This project opens the door for other industry sectors to be involved which may not have fully participated in the first project, such as forestry, dairy, fresh produce, fisheries and aquaculture.

It will also gather fresh new ideas and enhancements that may have been missed the first time around.

About one in five working South Australians are employed in agriculture, food and wine industries – which are a vital part of our regional economies.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock

In most regional areas, road transport is the only means of delivering goods to market, and efficient transport is vital for economic competitiveness.

The first stage of this project has had a huge impact. I would encourage anyone who wants to contribute to the efficiency and competitiveness of primary production in South Australia through transport improvements to have their say - now is the time.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Stephen Mullighan

This project is about making road transport simpler, safer and less costly so that we can reduce the supply chain costs for primary producers.

Allowing quad road trains alone has boosted the productivity of livestock transport in our State's north by approximately 8%.

The survey will likely identify further opportunities to upgrade infrastructure, while also seeking to address 'last mile' and freight access issues and the movement of machinery and equipment on public roads.

Quotes attributable to Primary Producers SA Chair Rob Kerin

This project has so far been a resounding success and is a great example of what can be achieved through collaboration between the Government and industry.

Allowing larger and heavier trucks on suitable regional roads provides many benefits, including reducing the number of heavy vehicles on our roads for a given freight task, allowing larger loads to be transported, and improvements to animal welfare. Gains have also been made in reducing the 'red tape' associated with moving agricultural machinery.