



TOM VENNING MP

Member for Grey



MEDIA RELEASE

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ROADS IN GREY A BLACK SPOT ON LABOR'S RECORD

Member for Grey, Tom Venning MP, has slammed the Labor Government's failure to provide new funding to address the dire condition of regional roads within the Federal Seat of Grey. The lack of investment has left several key regional corridors without the necessary funds for repairs, maintenance, or essential upgrades.

The electorate of Grey covers 908,595 square kilometres of South Australia, and for most, long stretches of road is all that connects them to family and essential services.

While projects in Adelaide like the North-South Corridor and the Curtis Road Level Crossing works have been funded in the 2025/2026 budget, Labor has overlooked the critical needs of regional South Australia and the seat of Grey. Yet again.

They have failed to deliver on several fronts, including:

- **No** additional funding for Augusta Highway, which is a nationally significant freight route, and slashing Rowan Ramsey's plans to secure future works.
- **No** plan to tackle South Australia's \$2 billion road maintenance backlog.
- **No** continuation of the \$20 million grant program for local government roads.

Recently completed duplication works between Port Wakefield and Lochiel have been welcomed but these works form just 29km of a 209km stretch from Port Wakefield to Port Augusta. And there are concerns that this new section is already showing decay.

Mr. Venning also criticised the budget's broader neglect of road funding and a failure to address the long-term issues surrounding the use of fuel excise to fund road works.

Quotes attributable to Tom Venning Member for Grey

"Labor has offered no funding and no plan to address dangerous roads in Grey. The Augusta Highway alone recorded 43 deaths and 319 injuries between 2014-2023, making it one of the most dangerous regional corridors in the state."

Continued overleaf...



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“Recent works on the Augusta Highway only form 29km of what is a 209km stretch from Port Wakefield to Port Augusta. Large swathes of this critical section are still dangerous and in need of remediation, plus some of the new asphalt has already begun to fail.”

“A trucking company owner from Booleroo Centre has contacted my office to report defects on the new section of the Augusta Highway. The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Tom Koutsantonis, confirmed the presence of these defects in a letter.”

“Due to these new defects and the existing highway's poor condition, this truckie's annual maintenance bill has almost doubled to nearly \$30,000. This kind of avoidable cost increase is unacceptable during a cost of living crisis. It needs to be fixed.”

NOTE: Information from the truck driver constituent regarding the state of the road, and information contained in the letter from the Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP Minister for Infrastructure and Transport is available to the media upon request.

"It's disappointing that there is also no plan to address the decline in fuel excise revenue, which is supposed to fund our roads. What's even more alarming is that the budget documents show only 79% of the fuel excise collected over the next four years will be spent on roads and infrastructure. That's funding Grey desperately needs."

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