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Government of South Australia Stephen Mullighan

SA Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

Joint Media Statement

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Early works to start on \$106 million APY road upgrade

Assistant Federal Minister for Infrastructure Jamie Briggs and South Australian Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan today announced the start of survey and design work for the \$106 million road upgrades in the APY Lands.

The project will be completed under the Regional Partnership Agreement.

The Australian Government is contributing 80 per cent of the funding for this vital project in the APY Lands.

The partnership between the APY, the State Government and the Federal Government under this agreement will ensure a shared vision and the best outcome for local Anangu.

The project will include ongoing training and employment for Anangu through the development of an employment strategy as well as the delivery of a road safety education program.

South Australian Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Stephen Mullighan said last year the State Government committed \$21 million of funding, in addition to the Australian Government contribution of \$85 million.

This brings total investment into APY Lands roads to \$106 million over a five year period.

Both Governments are very keen to ensure that the available funds are spent on the improvement of this important community access road and on the creation of sustainable jobs for Anangu.

This significant investment will see 210 kilometres of the main access road between the Stuart Highway and Pukatja (Ernabella) and more than 20 kilometres of community roads in the Lands improved, as well as providing all-weather access to airstrips at Pukatja (Ernabella), Umuwa, Kaltjiti (Fregon), Mimili and Marla.

Reliable roads will improve the transport of food and other supplies to the communities in the APY Lands, improve access to the airstrips for emergency services and enhance the social and economic benefits.

A community engagement plan is being finalised and consultation will continue through all phases of the project with the APY Board, the Traditional Owners and Communities.

Aerial and ground survey of the main access road alignment is expected to start November 3.

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