



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **PICHI RICHI RAILWAY MAKES TRACKS**

The Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society has received a grant of \$150,000 from the State Government Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback Futures Program. The announcement was made Tuesday by Minister Geoff Brock at the Quorn Railway Station.

Mr Brock said "The Pichi Richi Railway has played a major role for many years in ensuring the Flinders Ranges remains one of the state's major tourist destinations. The Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society has an important job in managing this South Australian icon and ensuring it remains a significant drawcard for visitors to Quorn and the Flinders Ranges."

The funding will be used to maintain bridges, replace sleepers, construct retaining walls and realign track.

"The vital works will ensure the ongoing safety and operation of the railway, extending the infrastructure's structural life by at least 25 years." Mr Brock went on to say.

Peter Slattery, Mayor of The Flinders Ranges Council said "The total cost of the infrastructure project is \$337,000 and therefore the funding announced today will be of great benefit to the Pichi Richi Railway. It will also benefit the wider community and region with the project creating one ongoing full time position as well as another five jobs during construction."

"The Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society is a not-for-profit organisation and relies entirely on volunteers, therefore funding support of this nature is essential to the sustainability of the railway".

Dr Jen Cleary, Chairperson of RDA Far North said "I am pleased to hear of the announcement and funding support for such a vital organisation and tourist attraction. This is the perfect project to be funded by this program, which aims to support the delivery of small projects that contribute to the economic diversification, resilience and capacity building of Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback communities".

ENDS

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