

MEDIA RELEASE

OPENING UP ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Far North welcomes the announcement in the budget by the Commonwealth Government of \$100 million to seal the Strzelecki Track.

RDA Far North, along with program partners the Outback Communities Authority and The Flinders Ranges Council, have played a major role in advocating for the sealing of the Strzelecki Track for many years, including through the joint production of the Economic and Community Benefits of Sealing the Strzelecki Track report. Released in 2018, the report provides a solid evidence base to identify and articulate the benefits of sealing the entire length of the Track.

Mr Mark Sutton, RDA Far North Chair said that the announcement marked a milestone in the process of recognising the importance of the Strzelecki Track as a key transport route along with the wider benefits a sealed road will bring to the State.

“The sealing of the Strzelecki Track will benefit many sectors including resources, beef cattle, road freight and tourism. It is a vital supply link for major oil and gas facilities in the Cooper Basin and is an essential transport corridor for tourism and livestock movements in and out of Queensland.”

The Strzelecki Track is a 472-kilometre length of road which links Lyndhurst to Innamincka; 45km of overtaking lanes at strategic locations were sealed some years ago and recently the State Government seal capped 15kms from Lyndhurst and 26kms from Innamincka to the Queensland border. The remaining road is unsealed and often rough – it can take up to 12 hours for heavy vehicles to traverse it.

“Sealing the Strzelecki Track is a nation-building project that is beyond purely economics; it will bring enormous social benefits to the Outback region in both South Australia and Queensland.”

The Economic and Community Benefits of Sealing the Strzelecki Track report is available to download from www.rdafn.com.au/publications

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