



CIVIL CONTRACTORS  
FEDERATION

# MEDIA RELEASE

19 November 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CONSTRUCTION LOBBY WELCOMES ALBANESE SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR COUNCILS**

The influential Civil Contractors Federation – South Australia (CCF SA) has today welcomed the Federal Opposition’s recently announced proposed infrastructure plan that would give councils an injection of funding to help turn around the nation’s economy.

The plan would see small infrastructure grants made available to councils to improve their road networks, and in doing so, stimulate local economies and jobs growth.

The CCF (SA) has long called for the SA and Federal Government in partnership to make available \$3 million to every council in the State to invest in local projects employing local people and using products and services from local businesses. The Federation sees the required \$204 million as an affordable mechanism to deliver state-wide economic stimulus and employment opportunities.

The key lobby group says the efforts of the State Government to address SA’s enduring slow economy and high unemployment could be complemented by the approach being advocated by the CCF (SA). It believes that a local government financial support package targeted at infrastructure as described above, would be the “shot-in-the-arm” that could turn the tide, in particular for the many regional towns and communities in SA where stores and businesses are closing, and people are leaving the district.

### **Comments attributable to Phil Sutherland, Chief Executive Officer, Civil Contractors Federation**

“While we all welcome this week’s Federal and SA Government’s fast forwarding of \$400 million investment in road and rail infrastructure, we agree with the Federal Opposition leader, Mr Albanese, that there is room for a targeted approach that involves funding councils for those smaller projects.

“Most councils have projects on the back burner that are shovel ready but can’t proceed due to the absence of funding.

“Financial supporting councils to construct local projects employing local people and using products and services from local businesses on a state-wide basis seems to us and our economists to make good sense.

“We are confident local communities would back the CCF’s initiative.

### **For further Information contact:**

Phil Sutherland - CCF SA Chief Executive Officer

M 0402 440 339 P (08) 8111 8000 E [psutherland@ccfsa.com.au](mailto:psutherland@ccfsa.com.au)

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The CCF SA: the peak industry association for the civil contracting sector | influencing government policy and regulation | lobbying and advocating for civil contracting companies | maintaining networks of influential government, media and community contacts | providing information of relevance to civil contracting companies and the community | facilitating opportunities for civil contracting companies to be consulted on matters of importance | hosting social and networking opportunities for civil contractors | promoting the civil contracting sector | delivering civil training programs and courses | providing technical and specialist advisory services to civil contractors | progressing strategies designed to achieve and maintain a safe, sustainable and profitable civil contracting sector.



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“Against a Federal Government roads budget for SA of \$400 million and a State Government budget of \$18 million, what the Federation is proposing is a drop in the bucket but potentially our plan could make a huge difference to the people of South Australia.

“While there are existing grants that councils can apply for, the time, cost, effort and red tape involved is a deterrent. The same applies to the conditions attached to the grants, often so onerous that councils don’t apply. Their communities are the poorer for this.

“If government adopts the CCF (SA) proposal, the funding process can be simplified and streamlined.”

## ABOUT THE CIVIL CONTRACTORS FEDERATION:

The Civil Contractors Federation (South Australian Branch) has 500 company members who in turn employ up to 30,000 South Australians. Members are involved in a variety of projects and activities (from small to very large) including the development and maintenance of civil or “horizontal” infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sewer, water and drainage pipelines, dams, wharves, commercial and housing land development. Members are also involved in the preparatory works for mining and other resource developments.

South Australia’s prosperity is dependent upon functional, efficient and cost effective civil infrastructure. Healthy, well-functioning and productive countries depend on infrastructure that civil contractors construct and maintain.

Civil contractors play a prime role in working with both public sector and private sector clients in infrastructure delivery. This is the business of civil construction which has historically played a pivotal role in the growth and prosperity of South Australia.

## **For further Information contact:**

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