

Infrastructure Federal Funding is Good News for SA - But Let's Get these Projects Delivered!

12 May 2021: The Civil Contractors Federation SA (CCF SA) commends the \$3.2bn of Federal funding towards local infrastructure projects announced last night, with the focus now turning to our State Government who are responsible for the delivery of these projects into South Australia.

Federation Chief Executive, Ms Rebecca Pickering said there were a number of wins in the Federal budget along with some stark omissions especially in regards to South Australia's 5 to 10 year project trajectory.

"Disappointingly there appears to be no upcoming allocation for the Major Project Business Case Fund for SA. This funding supports Business Case development which in turn determines future South Australian projects. Without this commitment we have serious concerns for South Australia's project forecast and pipeline in the near future.

"On the flipside it was terrific to see a Federal commitment to strengthen pathway services for 5,000 women to start non-traditional trades. Given that our industry aims to broaden its inclusivity and diversity commitments, this funding will assist us in reaching these goals," Pickering said.

Other wins included the extension of the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements Program.

"Along with Civil Apprenticeships and Careers Ltd we are pleased with this extension - we just hope civil apprentices are included, unlike other funding programs that historically only service traditional trades.

"This segues into new civil businesses being developed through self-employment. The Self Employment Federal funding commitment is exciting, as one of our new strategies seeks to encourage and support new civil businesses entering the South Australian market. We will seek to maximise this opportunity for our local community and those wanting to start a new civil construction business in this state," Pickering said.

Pickering noted that of the announced \$3.2bn for major infrastructure projects, including the next part of the North-South Corridor, only \$130.8m is allocated in the 2021/22 budget and that in regards to the Road Investment Component, there were significant increases, which is good news, but there is nearly \$1B in road repair work currently outstanding.

"Investing in civil infrastructure projects generates jobs, boosts business confidence and underpins economic growth and our primary focus is seeing that these projects start and are completed in suitable time frames.

"Greater transparency is needed across all of our local infrastructure projects, from start to finish, to ensure the best outcomes for everybody. This includes planning studies, design, business case development, maintenance, procurement and project starts."

Ms Rebecca Pickering is available for comment:

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“The ability of the Australian economy to maximise the economic benefit from last night’s infrastructure stimulus in the short to medium term is now largely dependent upon state and territory government’s meeting Federal Government project milestones,’ Pickering said. **ENDS.**

MEDIA IMAGES:

- https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c7ceoo3n9j7d9kk/AAA6z_HJaiqc02z2ZIN9Km-a?dl=0
 - Ms Rebecca Pickering headshot
 - Civil Apprenticeship and Careers Ltd Apprentices with Ms Rebecca Pickering

ABOUT THE CIVIL CONTRACTORS FEDERATION:

The Civil Contractors Federation South Australia has more than 500 company members who in turn employ up to 30,000 South Australians.

Members are involved in a variety of projects and activities including the development and maintenance of 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 and private sector clients in infrastructure delivery. The business of civil construction plays a pivotal role in the growth and prosperity of South Australia.

CCF SA will continue to advocate for the civil and allied industries, to ensure ongoing business and State’s sustainability:

- *Every South Australian Civil business is engaged in state infrastructure projects*
- *Projects procured and delivered in a timely manner*
- *Timelines and budgets that are realistic*
- *Pipeline of works that gives the industry an opportunity to invest for the future.*
- *Fair and equitable contracts that do not disadvantage SME’s*

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