



The Hon Catherine King MP

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Member for Ballarat

Ref: MS22-001993

The Hon Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services
Minister for Skills, Special Minister for State
GPO Box 1020
ACT Legislative Assembly
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

Chris

I would like to thank you, your office and your departmental officials for the collaborative way in which you have engaged with me in the 2022-23 October Budget process. I appreciate the assistance you have provided to help identify deliverable transport infrastructure projects and I look forward to working together on future investment decisions.

Infrastructure Investment Outcomes

This Budget honours the Australian Government's election commitments and, as I foreshadowed in my letter to you of 28 July, seeks to deliver infrastructure projects in a sustainable way. In light of current economic conditions that impact delivery of infrastructure investments, and to manage increasing pressure on the Commonwealth Budget, existing infrastructure spending has been reviewed, and in some cases, reduced or reprofiled.

This exercise is an important first step in our Government's objective of ensuring our infrastructure spending is responsible and sustainable. We are also committing new funding to deliver on our election commitments. I understand there will be some decisions that you will wish to discuss further with me.

I am pleased to advise the Australian Government has committed a further \$85.9 million to Canberra Light Rail – Stage 2A. The Australian Government will also deliver on our election commitment to contribute \$5 million to the Garden City Cycle Route project, which will be delivered via the Priority Community Infrastructure Program rather than the Infrastructure Investment Program.

Officials in my department will work with your officials to implement these commitments and work through any issues in advance of the 2023-24 Budget.

Please note, the Australian Government is also investing in the following infrastructure projects in New South Wales, which will benefit residents of the ACT:

- \$65 million to construct Dunns Creek Road between Googong and Canberra; and
- \$17.4 million for the Brindabella Road Upgrade, from the Brindabella Valley to the ACT border.

National Partnership Agreement on Land Transport Infrastructure Projects Schedules

In accordance with the *COAG Reform Fund Act 2008*, the terms and conditions on which financial assistance is provided to the states and territories must be set out in written agreement. In order to progress delivery of these commitments, I seek your written agreement that projects will be administered under the terms and conditions of the National Partnership Agreement on Land Transport Infrastructure (the NPA) and the associated Notes on Administration.

Please find attached an updated schedule to the NPA between the Commonwealth and states and territories, which includes the amount up to which the Commonwealth is willing to contribute and the conditions relevant to each project. Once agreed, the attached schedule will supersede all previous schedules to the NPA. The schedule provided to you by the former Government following their March 2022-23 Budget should be disregarded.

Through the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting, I look forward to working with you to deliver a national Infrastructure Policy Statement, Project Selection Framework and six-monthly reporting on delivery status of projects. These documents will inform effective governance, transparency and merit-based decision making in infrastructure investment, including in the 2023-24 Budget.

I look forward to continuing to partner to build the right infrastructure to support our growing cities and regions, and to deliver on our joint commitments under the NPA.

Yours sincerely



Catherine King MP

25 October 2022