



TONY SMITH MP

**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR
CASEY**



JASON WOOD MP

**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR
LA TROBE**

J O I N T M E D I A R E L E A S E

LOCAL ROADS FUNDING BOOST

The Yarra Ranges Shire Council will receive more than \$10 million over the next five years to upgrade and improve our local roads, with \$1.6 million secured for this financial year doubling to \$3.2 million next financial year.

Local Federal Member for Casey Tony Smith and Federal Member for La Trobe Jason Wood announced they had jointly secured the funding as part of the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery Programme.

"This funding is great news for local residents and businesses, and will make a real difference in improving the roads in our local community" said Mr Smith.

"As someone who's lived in the Dandenong Ranges for nearly all my life, I know what it's like living on unsealed roads and sometimes poorer quality roads. This is some much needed funding that I know local residents will be very happy about." said Mr Wood.

As announced in the 2014 Federal Budget, the Government is doubling Roads to Recovery payments to councils next year (2015-16) to \$700 million, which will go towards much-needed local road works.

The Roads to Recovery Programme is set up for councils to make road spending decisions based on local needs – without interference from Canberra – to ensure that funding is truly directed to where it is most needed in the community.

The Australian Government has extended Roads to Recovery for another five years to ensure councils all over Australia receive the funding they need to ensure local roads are safe, our communities are well connected and moving freight in and out of town is efficient.

The Roads to Recovery programme enables councils to prioritise roads funding to invest in the infrastructure which keeps our drivers safe and strengthens economic growth.

Local councils will be able to lodge their applications in October, which will allow payments under the new Roads to Recovery programme to be made this November.

Through Roads to Recovery, the Australian Government is supporting our councils with the ongoing maintenance of Australia's local road infrastructure, facilitating greater access, improving safety, and driving economic and social advances.

Both Mr Smith and Mr Wood said that they look forward to the Yarra Ranges Shire Council nominating the most important projects for funding here in our local community.

[ENDS]

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