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**Deputy Premier  
Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Sport and Recreation**

Our ref: 72-65251/1

Mr R Munns  
Secretary  
Kellerberrin SRRG  
[rod@rmecs.com.au](mailto:rod@rmecs.com.au)

Dear Mr Munns

**WHEATBELT SECONDARY FREIGHT NETWORK SUBMISSION FOR FUNDING**

I refer to your letters dated 10 February 2026, regarding future funding of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN). I acknowledge that you have written on behalf of the Kellerberrin Sub Regional Road Group and the Wheatbelt North East Sub Regional Road Group.

Since taking responsibility for the Transport Portfolio in 2017, I have remained committed to delivering significant investment to local government road networks across Western Australia.

In 2016/17, under the then Liberal-National Government, funding provided to local government via the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement was \$172.3 million. Under the Cook Labor Government this has increased substantially to \$307.5 million. That is almost double the amount of funding provided by the State to assist local government to build and maintain their assets, supporting this Government's commitment to deliver quality infrastructure across our State.

As part of this commitment to Local Governments, the State Government has also prioritised investment in the State's freight network to support road safety outcomes and increasing productivity for the agriculture and resource sectors.

Since 2020, our Government has partnered with the Australian Government to allocate to date nearly \$124 million (LG \$8.3 million/State \$16.5 million/AG \$99.2 million) on the WSFN. This funding has increased freight efficiency and productivity, reduced vehicle operating costs, and improved road safety along strategic freight routes within the Wheatbelt region as part of the overall \$187.5 million (LG \$12.5 million/State \$25 million/AG \$150 million) program.

Outside of the WSFN program, our Government has continued to work with the Australian Government to invest record amounts through the Regional Road Safety Program

(RRSP) towards upgrading our State's regional road network, with \$220 million allocated to improving Wheatbelt roads since 2020.

In 2025, our Government expanded the successful RRSP to include local government roads for the first time, supported by a \$125 million funding boost. More than \$39 million has been allocated as part of the RRSP expansion so far, with \$14.7 million going towards improvements on local governments roads throughout the Wheatbelt. It is important to note that the WSNF continues to be funded through to mid-2027, with \$24.5 million allocated to be spent in 2026-27.

As I understand, Main Roads has had discussions with WSNF Program Director, Mr John Nuttall, emphasising that to enable a funding request to be supported and submitted for consideration, a comprehensive business case needs to be completed.

I am advised that Main Roads has provided support to the WSNF for over 18 months to develop a new submission.

I understand the WSNF is still to complete the business case necessary to support a funding submission. Unfortunately, without a business case, Government cannot consider the proposal. In this regard, Main Roads will continue to offer support to the WSNF in preparing the business case.

I would encourage the WSNF to submit a proposal for consideration when the business case is complete.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rita Saffioti', written in a cursive style.

**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA  
DEPUTY PREMIER  
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

31 MAR 2026