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PRIME MINISTER

45/95

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING, MP

MOUNT BARKER ROAD AND ADELAIDE AIRPORT

I am pleased to announce today that the Commonwealth Government will undertake in South Australia two major infrastructure projects, the Mount Barker Road and the extension of Adelaide airport.

The Commonwealth will build an 8.3 kilometre divided freeway, including a six lane tunnel, to replace the present 10.4 kilometres of steep and winding undivided road on Mount Barker - the gateway to Adelaide on the Adelaide-Melbourne National Transport Corridor.

The project, the estimated cost of which is \$130 million, will be funded from the Commonwealth's National Highway program. Planning and land acquisition will begin immediately and construction will commence as soon as this process is complete.

The freeway will make a significant contribution to safety and will reduce travel time for both heavy vehicles and commuters.

The Commonwealth will also immediately commission design work and undertake any necessary environmental studies to finalise plans to the extension of Adelaide airport.

The Commonwealth will fund any shortfall between the South Australian government's already declared commitment of \$20 million and the cost of the extension. Construction of the extension will proceed ahead of the leasing of Adelaide airport. The South Australian government will have the opportunity to recoup their investment through the proceeds of the airport when it is leased.

Taken together, these projects represent two of the most important infrastructure works undertaken anywhere in the Commonwealth.

ADELAIDE
16 May 1995