



23

PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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The Federal Government will spend more than \$8 million on roads in the Mt Isa region this financial year.

National roadworks between Mt Isa and Wynton - which are directly funded by the Commonwealth alone will account for \$7.85 million - and will provide about 350 jobs.

Other funds will go to:

- . arterial road projects on the Diamantina Development Road worth \$300,000, and
- . work on the Flinders Highway near Julia Creek, to cost \$750,000.

Mt Isa will also get more than half a million dollars under the Bicentennial Roads Program for local roads.

The city will receive further grants of \$42,000 under the Government's new Jobs on Local Roads Program (JOLOR).

The sealing of the Landsborough Highway will continue.

When it is completed in 1988, it will provide a direct and completely sealed all-weather route between Brisbane and Darwin.

The Government has allocated a record \$272 million to Queensland roads this year - an increase of 51.3 per cent.

Expenditure on local roads will rise by 60 per cent.

These funds will create 3,000 jobs throughout Queensland.

The Government has placed a great deal of emphasis on road improvement.

We see it as a way of creating jobs, improving communications and adding impetus to economic recovery.

Roads have special significance to cities like Mt Isa and regions like North-West Queensland.

The Government is committed to ensuring that people living and working in this region are able to reap the benefits of better transport systems.

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