



PRIME MINISTER

Joint statement by the Prime Minister, the Hon P J Keating MP and the Minister for Land Transport, the Hon Bob Brown MP.

TWO BILLION DOLLARS FOR AUSTRALIA'S ROADS WILL EMPLOY 50 000 PEOPLE

Funding from the Federal Government's *One Nation* spending package for Australia's roads began to flow today. The \$600 million outlay will generate 15 000 jobs.

The additional funding from *One Nation* will boost total Federal Government spending on land transport this financial year to \$2 billion. The program will provide employment for 50 000 people.

Overall, the Commonwealth will spend about \$6 million a day on Australian roads in 1992-93.

To emphasise the effects of the package on regional Australia, details of the spending were unveiled in Gladstone today by the Prime Minister, Paul Keating and Federal Land Transport Minister, Bob Brown.

Mr Keating and Mr Brown said the Commonwealth roads spending, including the *One Nation* money would be targeted at rural areas and roads carrying primary produce, minerals and components for manufacturing to ports and railheads. In the cities, priority would be given to ring roads, routes carrying commercial traffic, access to ports and roads serving freight distribution centres.

The Commonwealth will contribute \$39 million to the joint government upgrading of the Pacific Highway in New South Wales, while \$138 million has been set aside for works on two new National Highway links -- from Adelaide to Sydney and from Melbourne to Brisbane. This will increase the length of the National Highway to more than 18 400 km.

More than \$370 million of the total will be spent on a maintenance program for the National Highway System linking all state capitals and major provincial centres.

'This essential maintenance will provide work to road gangs in widely dispersed regions throughout the country. Additional employment opportunities will be created', Mr Keating and Mr Brown said.

They said the land transport spending was directed at meeting the needs of the transport industry and at increasing Australia's international competitiveness through improved roads and reduced travelling times.

'Because transport accounts for about seven per cent of the total value of goods and services in Australia today, even small gains in road transport efficiency will be reflected directly in a more dynamic economy', they said.

'The importance of achieving these savings is underscored by the fact that the Federal Government will spend more than \$6 billion on road and rail infrastructure improvements during the next few years'.

Mr Keating and Mr Brown said the \$2 billion allocation for 1992-93 represented the largest ever annual land transport budget ever committed by a Federal Government in the post-war era.

The program was fully costed and has been taken into account when framing the Budget estimates. Normally, the Federal land transport budget is not known until the Budget is brought down.

'By revealing the extent of the roads program spending now, states, territories and councils will be able to proceed confidently with large projects that would otherwise have remained on the back-burner until after the Budget in August', Mr Keating and Mr Brown said.

The package approved today does not include *One Nation* spending on rail.

Mr Keating is expected to announce details of Federal funding for a national rail network soon.

Gladstone
July 30, 1992

FEDERAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAM, 1992-93: STATE ALLOCATIONS

NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT
\$574m	\$345m	\$374m	\$161m	\$107m	\$56.3m	\$46m	\$2.8m

(Excludes \$350 million paid as Financial Assistance Grants to councils and to State and Territory Governments for spending on local roads.)

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSPORT
PROGRAM AND ONE NATION SPENDING
1992-93**

