



# The Coalition's Policy to Upgrade the Great Ocean Road

August 2013

## Key Points

The Coalition will commit \$25 million over five years to upgrade the Great Ocean Road.

The Great Ocean Road is an Australian icon and one of the greatest driving routes in the world. The Great Ocean Road is a significant tourist destination that showcases Australia's natural wonders and regional communities.

Our commitment will deliver a significant upgrade, including maintenance of bridges and retaining walls, improvements to road safety for motorists and resurfacing works.

This will ensure that the Great Ocean Road continues to be the Victorian Surf Coast gateway and a lifeline for tourism and small business in south-western Victoria.

Our commitment will help ensure the Great Ocean Road is safer and capable of handling increasing traffic volumes.

The Coalition will deliver the infrastructure our nation needs so that people spend less time in traffic and more time with their family, businesses can get their goods and services to market faster, and our export industries can be more competitive.



# Introduction

## The Importance of the Great Ocean Road

The National Heritage listed Great Ocean Road is a road of major national significance.

More than seven million tourists use the Great Ocean Road every year, supporting 7,000 jobs and contributing more than \$1 billion annually to the Victorian economy.<sup>1</sup> Some parts of the Great Ocean Road carry more than 5,000 vehicles a day.

The Great Ocean Road requires a significant upgrade to ensure motorist safety and reduce congestion along its 243 kilometre stretch.

The Great Ocean Road is in need of maintenance and repair.

Some parts of the Great Ocean Road are subject to high risk of intermittent closure due to drainage issues and rock falls. Landslips and erosion have forced the temporary closure of some sections of the Great Ocean Road in recent years, impacting the local economy and traffic management.

There are many benefits for the region and Victoria to maintaining and improving the Great Ocean Road:

- it will create significant economic opportunities throughout the region. As well as supporting a \$2.1 billion tourist industry, maintenance of the Great Ocean Road will directly and indirectly support 212 additional jobs and \$18.6 million in wages and salaries in the region;
- road improvements will improve safety for locals, as well as domestic and international tourists, and make the Great Ocean Road more reliable; and
- it will further enable local events, such as the Great Ocean Road Marathon, which attracts over 4,000 people, as well as the Great Victorian Bike Ride and the Herald Sun Tour, to occur safely.

Local councils and community groups estimate that \$50 million is needed over five years to upgrade the road and deliver resurfacing, retaining and maintenance works.

---

<sup>1</sup> Great Ocean Road Destination Management Plan, February 2012, Available at: [http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/113902/Destination-Management-Plan-complete-document\\_R.pdf](http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/113902/Destination-Management-Plan-complete-document_R.pdf)



# The Plan

## 1. Upgrade the Great Ocean Road

The Coalition will provide \$25 million over five years to upgrade the Great Ocean Road.

This commitment will be matched by a \$25 million contribution from the Victorian State Government, which will see a total investment of \$50 million over the next five years in the Great Ocean Road.

This infrastructure upgrade will enable work to commence on the following capital works:

- restoration and strengthening of structures such as bridges, culverts and retaining walls;
- restoration and renewal of segments of the road pavement and surface to as-new condition, extending infrastructure life to beyond 2050 and providing road users with a safer driving experience;
- repairs and ongoing treatment of over 200 identified major landslip sites and pre-emptive repairs to reduce the risk to road users and the risk of significant road closure due to landslips; and
- replacement or extension of guardrails and roadside barriers to enhance safety for road users.

The Great Ocean Road is important to the regional and Victorian economy and is a drawcard for domestic and international tourists.

It is important that the road is safe and reliable.

Our commitment will help ensure the Great Ocean Road is safer and capable of handling increasing traffic volumes.

The Coalition will deliver the infrastructure our nation needs so that people spend less time in traffic and more time with their family, businesses can get their goods and services to market faster, and our export industries can be more competitive.



## 2. The Coalition Will Deliver Nationally Significant Infrastructure

Infrastructure is key to Australia's competitiveness.

Better infrastructure underpins services, such as transport and logistics, and water and energy. Inefficient road networks are one of the key reasons why Australia's productivity has declined and are also a key driver of the cost of living pressures affecting Australians.

Under the Coalition, vital transport projects will be underway across the country within twelve months of an election.

We have already committed:

- \$6.7 billion to fix Queensland's Bruce Highway;
- \$1.5 billion to get construction underway on Melbourne's East West Link;
- \$1.5 billion to ensure the Westconnex project gets underway in Sydney;
- \$1 billion to support the Gateway Motorway upgrade in Brisbane;
- \$686 million to complete Perth's Gateway without the mining tax;
- \$615 million to build the Swan Valley Bypass on the Perth-Darwin Highway;
- \$500 million to support the upgrade of Adelaide's North-South Road Corridor;
- \$400 million to upgrade the Midland Highway in Tasmania; and
- \$5.6 billion to complete the duplication of the Pacific Highway from Newcastle to the Queensland border.

In addition, the Coalition will:

- work with the NSW Government to get Sydney's F3 to M2 started by late 2014, which will mean shorter travel times, reduced congestion and safer roads for the residents of the Central Coast;
- get the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing underway; and
- build the National Broadband Network sooner and for tens of billions of dollars less than Labor's NBN.

The Coalition has a clear and definitive plan to build the nationally significant infrastructure our cities and country needs.



## Cost

The Coalition will commit \$25 million over five years to upgrade the Great Ocean Road.



**The Coalition's Policy** to Upgrade the Great Ocean Road



Hope.  
Reward.  
Opportunity.



**THE NATIONALS** *for Regional Australia*

For further details of the Coalition's Plan go to  
[www.realsolutions.org.au](http://www.realsolutions.org.au)