

18 March 2026

Mr Nick Reade
Chief Executive Officer
Royal Automobile Association of South Australia Limited

Via email: DColmer@raa.com.au

Dear Mr Reade

Thank you for your correspondence ahead of the 2026 March State Election.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the important work undertaken by the RAA and thank you for your advocacy for a stronger future for South Australia.

Safer Freight Routes

The Malinauskas Labor Government is making significant investments in safety and road capability, including as part of the \$2.7 billion we have announced in regional road projects since 2022.

In 2022, we acted to undertake a comprehensive heavy vehicle safety review of the South-Eastern Freeway down track. This review was informed in part by outcomes from a Ministerial roundtable with road freight representatives, road safety experts, South Australia Police, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and the RAA.

We are committed to exploring options to improve safety on the freeway. We will continue to engage with experts and consider expert advice to determine the most efficient way to implement proposed safety options arising from the review.

We know and understand the critical role freight plays in South Australia's prosperity. It's why my government has conducted preliminary planning works for the High Productivity Vehicle Network (HPVN) project –which aims to improve existing freight corridors to accommodate larger heavy vehicles. A key aim of the project is a low volume of larger vehicles, as opposed to a greater volume of smaller vehicles.

We have committed \$131.25 million (alongside \$525 million from the Federal Government) to progress Stage 1 of the project.

This is in addition to a joint \$500 million commitment with the Federal Government, over 10 years, to improve the safety and reliability of three national freight routes in South Australia, being the Stuart, Augusta and Dukes highways.

As of late 2025, approximately \$112.30 million has been invested across the three freight corridors. Works include pavement upgrades, safety barrier installation, lighting, shoulder sealing, rest areas and junction upgrades.

Safer Roads

Over the term of the former Marshall Liberal Government, South Australia's road maintenance backlog rose from an approximate \$750 million to an astonishing \$1.9 billion.

This followed the failed privatisation of road maintenance by the former government – including the sale of all of the government's maintenance equipment in the South-East.

Under Labor, approximately half of the \$190 million 2024-25 road maintenance budget was spent in regional and remote areas.

Since coming to government, the Malinauskas Labor Government has significantly increased road maintenance funding. Over successive state budgets we have implemented a scaled increase in funding – rising up to an additional \$30 million per annum by 2027-28.

We are pleased to confirm that key road maintenance will be undertaken on Womma Road in 2026 – with road surface repair, pavement rehabilitation and drainage upgrades to take place. This is in addition to resurfacing works on Victor Harbor Road between McLaren Vale Interchange and Willunga and around Pages Flat Road.

We are also continuing our significant investment in improving safety of SA's road network including the:

- National Road Safety Program (\$168 million)
- Adelaide Hills Productivity and Road Safety Package (\$150 million)
- Safety Upgrades on Eight Country Roads Program (\$70 million)
- Freight Highway Upgrade Program (\$500 million); and
- Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program

Safer Active Transport

The Malinauskas Labor Government has developed South Australia's first ever *Active Travel Design Guide* – providing practical design guidance for active travel and green infrastructure, based on Australian Standards and Guidelines and international best practices to create vibrant, cycling and pedestrian-friendly streets. The guide can be accessed via: www.dit.sa.gov.au/documents/active-travel-design-guide.

The State Bicycle Fund is also an annual grant program that provides up to dollar-for-dollar (50:50) financial assistance to councils in South Australia to develop and implement local cycling initiatives.

In 2025-2026, a total of \$2 million in funding was awarded to councils, with a maximum of \$20,000 awarded to individual design projects and a maximum of \$200,000 awarded to individual construction projects.

The Malinauskas Labor Government has also run the Way2Go School program, promoting safer, greener and more active travel for primary school students and their communities.

Way2Go Bike Ed is part of the program and is delivered to primary school students in years four to six, the program is focused on developing the skills to ride safely and independently, while learning about road safety and road rules on paths and roads.

This program is delivered to approximately 60 schools annually (10% of schools statewide), engaging over 4,000 students across the state, 80% metropolitan and 20% regional.

Affordable Energy

The Malinauskas Labor Government has been proactive in supporting households with energy efficiency upgrades including providing rebates to purchase more efficient appliances through the Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme (REPS) which is administered by the Essential Services Commission of SA.

This is in addition to the Federal Government's scheme to provide low cost finance to install items such as cheaper home batteries.

The Malinauskas Labor Government is also a strong advocate for bi-directional charging and vehicle to grid (V2G) technology.

South Australia was the first Australian jurisdiction to approve V2G connections in residential settings and held successful trials with South Australia Power Networks in 2022.

We will continue to advocate for V2G technology to be incorporated in the Australian Government's Cheaper Home Batteries Scheme to accelerate its uptake and unlock the full potential of the technology to support Australia's clean energy transition. We will also continue to work with stakeholders on future opportunities to increase the development and uptake of V2G technologies in South Australia and beyond.

Cleaner Transport

The Malinauskas Labor Government is committed to working with business, industry and the community to transform the economy to net zero emissions by 2050. We are also committed to accelerating work towards net zero emission government operations.

Sustainable Communities

The Malinauskas Labor Government has released South Australia's first Transport Strategy – a body of work which outlines our 30-year vision for the state's transport system. Under the strategy, we are investing in asset resilience and embedding climate risk mitigation into the planning, design, construction and operation of our transport infrastructure.

The River Murray Transport Infrastructure Resilience Plan project is an example of the State Government's proactive approach to incorporating climate resilience into the planning and design of transport infrastructure. This will result in improved resilience, both for the community in this region and the wider economy.

Modern Public Transport

The Malinauskas Labor Government is getting on with building a public transport system that connects and moves South Australians through cheaper fares, including free 24/7 travel for seniors, 25 cent trips for school students, and improved infrastructure.

Since coming into Government in 2022 the Malinauskas Labor Government has invested over \$2 billion in our regional and metropolitan public transport network. Importantly, we delivered on our election commitment by returning our trams and trains back to public hands. By reversing privatisation, we are putting people before profits. Now when you tap your MetroCARD, your fare goes straight back into

improving our public transport system to deliver more reliable, safer, and frequent services.

In the most recent state budget, we committed \$9.6 million to improve safety and security on buses through upgrades to CCTV systems, SMART devices for drivers and increased security personnel.

We also recently introduced nation-leading powers to crack down on criminal and anti-social behaviour on public transport including indefinite bans for passengers charged with offences involving violent acts.

We have invested over \$19 million in public transport in the Hills - making the on-demand bus service permanent in Mount Barker, Nairne and Littlehampton, upgrading the Mount Barker bus depot, purchasing six brand new electric buses and adding an extra 590 bus trips per week. This has seen weekly bus boardings increase by over 260% since 2023.

Reduced Congestion

Labor is undertaking a range of planning and transport studies for lane expansions and other measures to boost capacity and reduce congestion. This work includes examining prioritised interventions for key roads such as Main South Road.

Procurement of a Reference Design and Business Case for the upgrade of Curtis Road is commencing in January 2026. This will include Curtis Road from Main North Road to Angle Vale Road, and the Curtis Road and Northern Expressway interchange.

Lower Cost of Living

The Malinauskas Labor Government is taking to the election a plan to bolster compliance and increase penalties for retailers who fail to update fuel prices appropriately. We were proud to stand up with the RAA on this important issue.

The real-time petrol price monitoring scheme will remain fully funded under a re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government, with:

- a tripling of the current funding for compliance, allowing an additional 100 fuel inspections each month; and
- a doubling of the current penalties for failure to comply with any requirement imposed on a fuel retailer by the fuel pricing scheme.

This will see expiation fees increase from \$550 to \$1100 while the maximum court-imposed penalty for breaches will go from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

In addition, under a re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government, eligibility for the Seniors Card will be expanded to a further 80,000 South Australians.

This means half a million South Australians aged 60 or older will have access to free Adelaide Metro public transport and will be able to save 4 cents per litre on fuel at participating United service stations Australia wide.

Should Labor the Malinauskas Labor Government be re-elected for a second term, we look forward to continuing these important conversations with you.

Given your interest in housing, information about our bold new initiatives to maximise housing supply and increase access for affordable homes can be found here: <https://www.sa.alp.org.au/our-policies/building-more-homes>

You may also like to keep up to date with our other 2026 State Election Policy Commitments here: <https://www.sa.alp.org.au>

Thank you again for writing and for your ongoing contribution to the state.

Kind regards

SA Labor Team