



Kalgoorlie Miner

Saturday 20/4/2013

Page: 3

Section: General News

Region: Kalgoorlie WA Circulation: 8,078

Type: Regional

Size: 93.29 sq.cms.

Frequency: MTWTFS-

Brief: PARLWA-WA1

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Wait on for highway work

The State Government has given scant details on how it will introduce a key election promise for the Goldfields.

Premier Colin Barnett was in Kalgoorlie-Boulder in February to spruik a promise to spend \$48 million on 15 passing lanes on the Great Eastern Highway between Southern Cross and Coolgardie.

Mr Barnett said the upgrade was needed because of the 142 accidents and three fatal crashes over the past five years on that section of the highway and a lack of investment from the Federal Government.

The Liberals promised the upgrade would be completed by 2017. "Despite being our main road link to the rest of the nation, it has been grossly under-funded by Canberra and the previous State Labor government," Mr Barnett said at the time.

"A Liberal Government will address this chronic neglect of safety on this important highway."

However, it is now unclear when the work will actually begin.

The *Kalgoorlie Miner* asked Minister for Transport Troy Buswell's office a number of questions about the election promise, including when work would start and whether the funding would be included in the upcoming budget.

In response to the questions, a spokeswoman for the Minister said: "The State Government is currently working through the implementation and timing of election commitments. The scope and timing of commitments will be confirmed through the upcoming budget process." After winning the State election, Mr Barnett said the Government would uphold each of the Liberal's election commitments.

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