

# Roadworks upgrade to boost new abattoir

## STOCKYARD

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THOMAS Foods International will benefit from a \$7 million roadworks upgrade to support a new abattoir, following a devastating blaze at the Murray Bridge plant last year.

The money was set aside in the Budget, but the company has shed little light on a time frame or location for the rebuild.

A Federal Government spokesman said it committed the funds towards junction and road upgrades to improve the road network surrounding Thomas Foods.

"The project aims to reduce transport costs, improve road safety and facilitate an efficient transport system for high productivity freight vehicles," he said.

Murray Bridge Mayor Brenton Lewis said the money was "a wonderful announcement" for his community.

"It means the State Government and Federal Government are obviously working to provide infrastructure support ... towards a new processing plant at Murray Bridge," Mr Lewis said.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that Thomas Foods International will invest in production in the Murray Bridge area ... I've never had a doubt."

Thomas Foods chief executive Darren Thomas, pictured, labelled the news "a positive step forward".

He said the company was steadily making progress on its plans to replace the Murray Bridge plant.