

# \$14 million tender another step towards Thomas Foods International rebuild



Peri Strathearn

Local News

State and federal governments will contribute \$14 million to the construction of a road to Thomas Foods International's new Murray Bridge meat works. Photo: Supplied.

Construction of a heavy-duty road leading to Thomas Foods International's new meat processing plant will begin early next year.

The state government has called for tenders for the design of the road, two kilometres long, which will run from the new meat works to Mannum Road, north of Murray Bridge.

The design work is due to be completed early in 2020 so construction can begin before the end of the financial year.

Local property owners will be consulted before the on-ground works begin.

The minor milestone was the subject of a joint announcement by federal Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Minister Michael McCormack; state Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government Minister Stephan Knoll; federal MP Tony Pasin and state MP Adrian Pederick on Wednesday.

The [state](#) and [federal governments](#) will spend \$14 million on the road between them. Mr Knoll said the project was an example of governments building productive infrastructure which would unlock millions of dollars worth of investment and thousands of jobs.

Mr Pasin agreed that it was a prudent commitment of taxpayers' money.

"By working together we've been able to assist the company rebuild by funding the road infrastructure that will boost freight productivity," he said.

"It's an important piece of the puzzle that will ultimately lead to benefits across the supply chain."

Mr Pederick said the new meat works would underpin economic growth in the Murraylands for decades.

Thomas Foods (TFI) chief executive officer Darren Thomas had [made it clear in January](#) - 12 months after [fire destroyed the old Murray Bridge meat works](#) - that the company would need an assurance of government support, including by way of "physical infrastructure", before it could announce a rebuild.

TFI [announced in July](#) it would spend hundreds of millions of dollars on its new, world-class meat works, which it hoped to have up and running as soon as November 2020.

About 2000 staff will eventually be employed at the facility.