

News release - Stephen Mullighan

Contract signed, Gawler Electrification works to begin within weeks

Stephen Mullighan January 18, 2018

The State Labor Government has today announced Lendlease has been awarded the contract to deliver stage one of the \$615 million Gawler Electrification project.

In a boost for South Australian jobs, Lendlease's hugely successful NorthHub employment and training facility will be expanded to include the Gawler Rail Electrification Project, ensuring that South Australian workers and businesses benefit most from this major infrastructure project.

NorthHub has already set a new benchmark for local industry participation on the Northern Connector project with more than 95 percent of all labour hours being conducted by South Australians.

The electrification will deliver faster, safer, more reliable and more comfortable rail services which will encourage more people to leave the car at home and take public transport.

The State Government has been ready to award the contract since 14 December last year and works could have already started, however, David Pisoni and the Liberals have been holding up the project, delaying the Public Works Committee's approval for the project.

Works will commence in the coming weeks, starting with the relocation of power, water, gas, telecommunications and stormwater services along the corridor.

Background

Stage one of the project will see the Gawler line electrified between Adelaide and Salisbury and include:

- Installation of the overhead wiring system including masts and gantries
- Installation of a new signalling system
- Installation of an Automatic Train Protection system
- Installation of a new fibre optic communications system cable
- Service relocations, vegetation trimming and removal and other works necessary to enable the electrification to proceed

With some work already completed during previous track closures including re-sleepering, installation of nearly 300 masts and footings, other track modifications and upgrades, we will be aiming to ensure that we minimise disruptions to commuters.

The project is expected to be completed by mid-2020.

Further information about Gawler Rail Electrification is available [online](#).

Quotes attributable to Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan

The State Labor Government has invested more than \$2 billion in transforming Adelaide's rail network to provide faster, cleaner and more efficient services.

The Gawler line is our most popular train service with patronage increasing by more than 30% in the seven years to 2017 and we want to keep improving that service and growing patronage.

On average almost 17,000 passengers use Gawler services each weekday and completing the electrification of the entire line will significantly increase capacity, allowing an extra 2400 passengers an hour to use the train in peak periods.

Since we electrified the Seaford line, patronage has increased by over one million additional trips a year.

This project will support 135 jobs a year during construction and we want to make sure that local businesses and workers gain the greatest benefit from this investment.

Its great news that Lendlease will expand its NorthHub initiative to include the Gawler Electrification project, this will ensure we maximise opportunities for South Australian workers and businesses.

Stage Two of the project from Salisbury to Gawler is also ready to proceed and just needs a funding commitment from the Federal Government to give it the green light.

Even with the contract signed and works to commence within weeks, a funding commitment by the Federal Coalition would allow us to extend the contract to deliver the entire project from Adelaide to Gawler and would support an extra 95 jobs a year during construction.

Quotes attributable to Member for Light Tony Piccolo

The electrification of the Gawler rail line is a project that will have an immediate and tremendous impact for our local economy.

The State Labor Government has already committed its share towards completing Stage Two electrification of the Gawler train line. It is now time the Federal Coalition committed to its half.