

Hon Corey Wingard MP

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Stephan Knoll MP

Member for Schubert

Monday, October 12, 2020

Marshall Government delivers missing link for Gawler and Southern Barossa commuters

The much-anticipated Gawler East Link Road (GELR) will open to traffic for the first time this Sunday, October 18, at 2pm.

The \$67.7 million project connects the residential developments east of Gawler and the Southern Barossa directly to Main North Road, eliminating the need to travel through the Gawler town centre.

It also provides access to essential infrastructure for an estimated 3500 new dwellings to be constructed in Gawler East, Gawler South and Evanston Park, which are expected to bring an additional 8400 residents into the area.

The new 5.5-kilometre project includes two new local roads, Schomburgk Drive and Mullamar Way, to improve accessibility for local residents.

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Corey Wingard said the project has supported more than 110 local jobs since construction commenced in late 2018 and the road would continue to support future economic growth for the region.

“Building infrastructure to support urban growth within the Gawler region will drive further investment in new residential developments, boosting the local construction industry and creating more jobs locally,” Minister Wingard said.

“This vital road link will also reduce travel times, improve safety and cut the vehicle emissions caused by congestion during peak periods.

“This project is another example of the Marshall Liberal Government getting on with building what matters to South Australians with a record \$12.9 billion investment in infrastructure over the next four years.”

Member for Schubert Stephan Knoll, who officially opened the road on Monday, said the completion of the project was a major accomplishment for the Marshall Government and the wider Gawler community, which has been campaigning for a project of this nature for decades.

“This road provides an important connection for residents of not only Gawler East but also constituents of Schubert in the Southern Barossa to Main North Road and its major shopping precincts,” Mr Knoll said.

“I know this is very welcome news for residents of Williamstown, Lyndoch, Cockatoo Valley, Sandy Creek and Kalbeeba, who have eagerly been waiting for this road to be finished.

“The completed project includes 4.3-kilometres of new road alignment from Calton Road, Gawler East, to Potts Road, Evanston Park, through the creation of Schomburgk Drive and Mullamar Way.

“It also involved an upgrade to the remaining section of Potts Road through to Main North Road, and the signalisation of the Main North/Potts/Para Road intersection.”

In 2018, the Marshall Liberal Government committed extra funding to the GELR project to enable the delivery of future services infrastructure and the roundabout junction of the GELR with Potts Road in response to requests from Town of Gawler to enable the total project scope to be delivered.

“We listened to the community, and we delivered,” Mr Knoll said.

“The previous government were more concerned with penny pinching than with delivering a project which met the community’s needs and expectations, both now and well into the future.

“Once again, the Marshall Liberal Government has actually delivered what the former Labor government talked about but failed to do so in 16 years.

“I’d like to thank the local community for their patience and co-operation while these important works have been carried out, and encourage residents to familiarise themselves with the new link road.”

Springwood Communities chairman Warwick Mittiga also welcomed the completion of this important project.

“Together with the State Government, we’re thrilled to welcome the opening of the Gawler East Link Road, which is a milestone for both Springwood and the wider Gawler community,” he said.

“It will reduce transit time for residents, enable our community to grow, and will also provide added convenience, leading directly into the heart of the Springwood Village Centre.

“With an X Convenience currently under construction, as well as a supermarket, childcare centre, speciality shops and cafes and more planned, the opening of this road unlocks significant economic growth in the area.”

The full journey features three roundabouts (one at each entry point at Potts Road and Calton Road, and another at the project’s junction with Gawler-One Tree Hill Road); a 90-metre long bridge over the South Para River, and a BEBO Arch (a precast concrete arch structure) over a gully crossing.

Overall, 16,007 tonnes of asphalt, 2362 cubic metres of concrete and 465 tonnes of precast concrete have gone in to construct a grand total of 62,360 square metres of road and footpaths.

The new Gawler East Link Road will be signposted at 50km/h and contains two traffic lanes (one in either direction), two 1.5-metre-wide bike lanes and one footpath.

For more information, visit www.dit.sa.gov.au/infrastructure/road_projects/gawler_east_link_road.