



Mount Barker Interchange Upgrade

Project Update

We are upgrading the Mount Barker Interchange to create better connections between Adelaide Hills and the freeway, supporting population growth.



Improved safety for all road users



Better access for cyclists and pedestrians



Smoother and safer journeys

The Mount Barker Interchange is being upgraded to include a new three-lane bridge across the South Eastern Freeway for northbound traffic, with the current bridge converted to accommodate three lanes of southbound traffic and a new Shared Use Path. It will also include improved ramp capacity and new traffic signals to improve safety and reduce congestion.

In November 2025, we invited the community to explore concept plans, ask questions, provide feedback and find out what to expect during construction on the Mount Barker Interchange upgrade, Verdun Interchange Upgrade project, Adelaide Road, Mount Barker Roundabout project, and River Road Junction Improvements.

This project update provides an overview of what we heard from the community in November 2025. It also outlines next steps for these works.

Please visit our project website for more information: dit.sa.gov.au/mtbarkerinterchange



Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



Government of South Australia

Department for Infrastructure and Transport

Overview of what we heard

At all sessions we received feedback that the community was supportive of the Mount Barker Interchange Upgrade Project.

Attendees raised the following key themes and questions during the Project's information sessions:

Trees and Vegetation

The main question related to whether the Old Man Barker Tree would be affected by the works. We recognise the cultural and community significance of this iconic River Red Gum and can confirm that the tree will be retained and will not be impacted by the project's construction activities.

Some community members also asked about potential tree and vegetation removal.

While a degree of vegetation clearance is required to deliver the works, efforts will be made to minimise impacts wherever possible. An independent arborist will provide advice during construction to help further reduce any effects on surrounding trees.

Any vegetation impacts will be managed and appropriately offset in line with legislative requirements and the project's Vegetation Impact Assessment Guideline.

Works during Fire Season

Some community members asked about construction activities occurring during the fire season, at the Mount Barker Interchange and the Mount Barker roundabout upgrade. The project team carefully considers seasonal risks throughout construction.

Importantly, no works will be undertaken on public holidays or on Total Fire Ban days where the Fire Danger Rating is classified as 'Catastrophic'. Construction activities will be planned and managed in line with relevant fire safety requirements to ensure community and worker safety remains a priority.

Traffic Management

Attendees were interested in how traffic would be managed through the Interchange and on Adelaide Road during construction. Traffic management will be in place throughout the work zone as needed.

Where possible, road-impacting activities will be scheduled outside peak travel times and temporary lane closures will be kept to a minimum.

Traffic management arrangements will be regularly reviewed to support efficient traffic flow as construction progresses.

Property Access

A key question raised was related to access to nearby businesses and properties while works are underway. Maintaining access is a priority for the project, and access will remain open throughout construction. If short-term, localised access impacts are required, advance notice will be provided to ensure they are informed and disruptions are minimised as much as possible.

Access to Adelaide Road and Mount Barker city centre will remain open at all times.

Pedestrian and cyclist access

Questions were raised about how pedestrian and bicycle access on the interchange had been improved through the new design.

The upgrade design includes a new shared use path incorporated onto the existing bridge, and its approaches, providing a safer and more accessible connection for pedestrians and cyclist. In addition, a new northbound on-road bicycle lane will be delivered to further enhance cycling connectivity through the interchange. A new pedestrian crossing on Adelaide Road will be installed and new pavement and surfacing will be laid throughout the work zone.

Design feedback

There was support for the installation of the new interchange bridge on the western side of the existing bridge. Positive responses were also received on the improved access for users on the exit ramp from Murray Bridge.

Suggestions were made that roundabouts be installed to replace the interchange traffic lights. A roundabout option was not progressed due to having increased land and environmental impacts.

Other feedback outside of the project scope

Feedback was received about the existing traffic congestion experienced at the junction of Adelaide Road and Hawthorn Road and conditions may change following completion of the project. Questions were also raised about the proposed Heysen Boulevard extension and its potential influence on traffic in the area.

Concerns were also raised about the proposed Heysen Boulevard extension design and the potential impacts to current traffic congestion.

While these matters sit outside the current project scope, the feedback has been shared with the relevant stakeholders to ensure it is considered in broader planning discussions. Comments relating to the Adelaide Road and Hawthorn Road intersection have been provided to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) Planning team. Feedback regarding the Hawthorn Road junction and the Heysen Boulevard extension has been forwarded to the Mount Barker District Council for their information.

Next steps

Construction activities including site establishment and service relocation works commenced in December 2025, with works on the interchange scheduled to commence in early March 2026. The interchange is expected to be open to traffic in late 2027.

Most of our construction works will happen during the day between 7am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Some night works will be required between 7pm and 6am, Sunday to Thursday.

Occasionally, we will need to work on Saturday and Sunday between 7am and 5pm

We will notify you in advance if you are impacted by night or weekend works.

No works will be undertaken on public holidays or on total fire ban days (where the Fire Danger rating is Catastrophic)

Access for emergency vehicles will always be maintained.

Please subscribe to project updates at:

www.dit.sa.gov.au/mtbarkerinterchange