

Media releases

Trish Draper, MP
Minister for Transport & Urban Planning

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PORT RIVER EXPRESSWAY HERALDS CHANGES FOR PORT ADELAIDE AND SA ECONOMY

The Federal and State Government's financial support for the Port River Expressway (Third River Crossing) will lead to Port Adelaide becoming a 'city village' with a reputation as an 'island of innovation, culture, art and thinking'.

The Federal Member for Makin, Trish Draper and the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning today outlined the future vision for the Port Adelaide precinct at a ceremony marking the start of preparations for the \$120 million Third Port River Road crossing and 5 km highway extending west from the South Road Connector. The proposal includes a rail bridge.

The Port River Expressway will link Francis Street east of the Port River with Victoria Road to the west, diverting traffic around the Port Adelaide residential and business centre to stimulate urban renewal and enhance its tourist potential. Mrs Draper predicts Port Adelaide would become as vibrant and diverse as The Rocks has been to Sydney - or Fremantle to Perth.

"The experience here will be one of rejuvenation that Adelaide has not seen for several decades," Mrs Draper says.

"Old warehouses will become apartment complexes, workshops and professional business nodes. Cafes will extend onto the footpath to take advantage of streets freed of trucks.

"The project's contribution to national transport efficiency qualified the project as a Road of National Importance, and \$18.5 million Federal funds, which has been matched by the State Government."

The SA Minister for Transport said better links between the port and rail terminals and to centres of industry and primary production in South Australia is critical to expand our export trade, economic prosperity and jobs.

"The port area is also an important industrial hub and major transport and distribution centre serving Adelaide and beyond," said the Minister for transport. To advance this project the Minister for Transport says -

- A Land Development Committee with membership from relevant State Government agencies will now identify government-held land assets adjacent to the project, that may offer development opportunities for the private sector.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment, prestructural advise, site surveys and geotechnical investigations will be completed early next year.
- A Registration of Interest process will commence in April 2001 and conclude late in 2001.
- Legislation to amend the Highways Act, to provide for a toll to attract private sector investment in this project to build the bridge.

Construction of the highway is expected to start in late 2001 with work on the bridge starting in mid 2002. Completion of the project is expected in early 2004.

BACKGROUND

- Travel distances from the National Highway network at Port Wakefield Road to the LeFevre Peninsula will be reduced some three kilometres.
- Peak period travel times to the port area from Wingfield will be reduced five to 10 minutes initially, and up to 15 minutes by 2011.
- A rail journey to the port would be three kilometres shorter, with fewer curves and steep grades, and the Commercial Road viaduct (costing \$20 million to repair) would be eliminated."

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