



MEDIA RELEASE

**Michael Wright, Minister for Transport  
Jeannie Ferris, Senator for South Australia**



Friday 20 December 2002

### **STAGE 1 ROADWORKS START - PORT RIVER EXPRESSWAY**

Work has started on constructing a four-lane link between Francis Street Port Adelaide and the Salisbury Highway/South Road Connector, including a road bridge over Eastern Parade, for Stage 1 of the Port River Expressway.

Senator Jeannie Ferris, representing the Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services, and the South Australian Minister for Transport, Michael Wright, today marked the start of works with an on-site ceremony.

Senator Ferris says she was delighted to announce the start of construction for the Stage 1 road works because of the economic and social benefits the project would generate for South Australia.

“Stage 1 will provide improved links to the National Highway and more efficient access to Port Adelaide, South Australia’s major centre of economic activity with its concentration of export, industrial, transport and distribution facilities,” Senator Ferris says.

Minister Wright says, when complete, the community will benefit from reduced congestion on major routes into Port Adelaide with better safety and amenity of the area, including residential suburbs.

“Funding of the \$62 million Stage 1 road works has been shared between the Federal and State Governments under the Roads of National Importance (RONI) program,” Mr Wright says.

Senator Ferris explained that the Federal Government recognised the Port River Expressway’s vital contribution to South Australia’s economic development.

Minister Wright says the start of the Stage 1 road works would pave the way for the Port of Adelaide’s transformation.

“There will be easier and quicker access for heavy vehicles travelling to Port Adelaide with the Expressway saving 3 km and seven minutes of travel time between the South Road Connector/Salisbury Highway and Port Adelaide.

“Environmental management for this project has been challenging, with engineers managing contamination, illegal dumping and swampy ground conditions across the work site,” Mr Wright says.

“Special attention has been taken to protect rare vegetation and to ensure that the Magazine, Range and Barker Inlet wetlands are protected during construction and operation of the Expressway,” Senator Ferris says.

“More than 150,000 trees, shrubs and native grasses will be planted along the Expressway greatly improving the area. Road users will also enjoy excellent views of the wetlands and tidal flats along the Expressway route.”

Stage 1 is due to be complete in September 2004.

**Further information:**

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