



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



Honourable Michael Wright, SA Minister for Transport
Senator The Hon Ron Boswell, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services

PORT RIVER EXPRESSWAY CONTRACT AWARDED

The first construction contract to be awarded for the Port River Expressway has been let to a joint venture between South Australian companies Bardavcol and York Civil.

The Federal Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services, Senator Ron Boswell, and South Australian Minister for Transport, Michael Wright, today announced details of the \$62 million Stage 1 road works contract, which includes 10 years maintenance.

Funded by the State and Federal Governments under the Roads of National Importance Programme, at this stage the Federal Government's contribution is capped at \$26.67 million.

In welcoming the impending start of construction, Senator Boswell said that Stage 1 would involve construction of a 5.5 km, four-lane link between Francis Street and the Salisbury Highway/South Road Connector, including a road bridge over Eastern Parade and the construction of Hanson Road from the Port River Expressway to Wilkins Road.

"The Port River Expressway route will provide a seamless link between the State's export enterprises, industrial areas and transport and distribution facilities at the Port of Adelaide," Senator Boswell said.

"A more direct route to the Port Adelaide will have enormous benefits for the State's wheat, agriculture and export wine industries and the ability of rural producers to market their products more cost-effectively."

Mr Wright says that overall, the \$138 million Port River Expressway represents a major investment in national transport efficiency and competitiveness by providing a direct link from the National Highway and interstate rail network to freight centres at Port of Adelaide and Outer Harbor.

"The Port River Expressway will be an important impetus for the redevelopment and revitalisation of Port Adelaide, with heavy vehicles diverted from the heart of the city and less commercial vehicles using Grand Junction Road and Cormack Road the amenity of Wingfield, Athol Park, Rosewater and Ottoway will improve.

"Industry also benefits with decreased travel time and easier access for heavy vehicles, including B-doubles and road trains travelling to Port Adelaide."

Construction of Stage 1 will start in October 2002 with completion in August 2004.

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