



Government
of South Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

Hon Diana Laidlaw MLC

Minister for Transport & Urban Planning
Minister for the Arts
Minister for the Status of Women

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PORT ADELAIDE'S NEW BRIDGES - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CALLED -

Expressions of Interest have been called for South Australia's first major private sector funded and operated transport project – the road and rail bridge components of the Port River Expressway (a 3 Stage project at Port Adelaide).

Minister for Transport and Urban Planning, Diana Laidlaw, says the bridge works are expected to generate strong private sector interest from both local construction companies and across Australia under a 'Build Own Operate and Transfer' (BOOT) scheme.

The road bridge (Stage 2) is a four-lane bridge across the Port River between Docks 1 and 2. The rail bridge (Stage 3) is a single track, dual gauge bridge adjacent to the road bridge. Both structures – projected to cost about \$80 million - will be opening bridges.

Already Expressions of Interest have been called for Stage I - and four contractors/consortia have been short listed to Design, Construct and Maintain the new road connection between Ocean Steamers Road and the Salisbury Highway – South Road Connector. Stage 1 is fully funded by the Federal and State Government under the Road for National Importance (RONI) program.

“Overall the three stages of the Port River Expressway represent 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 the Port of Adelaide and Outer Harbor,” Ms Laidlaw says.

The project will address the current expansion of industrial activities on the LeFevre Peninsula and cater for both the development of the new grain terminal by Ausbulk at Outer Harbor and the deepening of the Outer Harbor to accept Panamax ships (with 80% of grain received into the new terminal by rail).

In addition, the Port River Expressway will act as an important impetus for the redevelopment and revitalisation of historic Port Adelaide, by diverting heavy vehicle transport from the heart of the city.

Ms Laidlaw says that by creating this investment opportunity for the private sector, the Government is able to advance the bridge works more rapidly, - generating jobs and increased export opportunities, as well as providing value for money to taxpayers.

“It is proposed that the private sector will operate and maintain the bridges for a concession period of 30 years. At the end of this period the bridges will transfer back to the Government.

To attract private sector involvement, legislation was passed by Parliament in July 2000 to provide for tolling. Construction of the road and rail bridges is expected to start in December with completion in 2004.

BACKGROUND

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The Port River Expressway comprises three stages:

Stage 1 comprises a new 5.5 km, 4-lane link between Ocean Steamers Road and the Salisbury Highway/South Road Connector and the upgrading of Francis Street between Eastern Parade and Ocean Steamers Road.

Stage 1 will be delivered as a Design, Construct and Maintain (DCM) contract. It is estimated to cost \$57 million and is funded by the Federal and State Governments. Tenders were called in December 2001 and will close in March 2002.

Stages 2 and 3 include a 4-lane, low level opening road bridge across the Port River with associated road connections to Francis Street and Victoria Road, and a single-track, dual gauge opening rail bridge across the Port River.

Stages 2 and 3 will be a Build Own operate and Transfer (BOOT) contract in which the private sector will fund the construction of the bridges and recoup its investment via the collection of tolls. The legislation required to give effect for road tolls was passed on 13 July 2000.