



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



Government
of South Australia

Hon John Anderson MP

Minister for Transport and Regional Services

Hon Diana Laidlaw MLC

Minister for Transport and Urban Planning

Tuesday, 24 July 2001

FIRST PORT RIVER EXPRESSWAY CONTRACT ANNOUNCED

South Australia's first major 'Design, Construct and Maintain' roadworks contract has been called for Stage 1 of the Port River Expressway project.

Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services, John Anderson, and South Australian Minister for Transport and Urban Planning, Diana Laidlaw, today announced details of the first construction contract to be let for the \$130 million Port River Expressway project.

Mr Anderson says that Stage 1 comprises a new six kilometre, four-lane expressway link between Eastern Parade and South Road, the widening of Francis Street between Ocean Steamers Road and Eastern Parade to four-lanes, and an extension of Hanson Road.

"The Federal Government is pleased to contribute \$18.5 million to Stage One, excluding Hanson Road, under its Roads of National Importance Scheme (RONI). I am also pleased the Commonwealth and State Government will continue to work with each other on this important regional road project," Mr Anderson says.

"Stage 1, estimated to cost \$54 million, is a key strategic component of the Expressway route, which will provide a seamless link between the State's export enterprises and industrial areas with transport and distribution facilities at the Port of Adelaide."

Ms Laidlaw says the South Australian Government traditionally delivers roadworks as separate 'design and construct' packages, with the Government assuming responsibility for maintenance at the completion of the project.

"However, for the Port River Expressway, the private sector will be asked to combine the design and construction phases, which will be followed with routine maintenance for the Expressway for 10 years after construction has been completed," Ms Laidlaw says.

"Transferring responsibility for the entire package to the builder will stimulate the development of innovative design and construction techniques. This is critical given the difficult geotechnical conditions and need to work within a tight budget.

"Interstate projects such as the Melbourne City Link and Sydney Eastern Distributor demonstrate the benefits of this approach for the Government and the community."

The Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Stage 1 roadworks is being advertised nationally on Saturday 21 July. Construction is expected to start in December 2001 and finish in 2003.

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Private sector interest in the project is extremely high with Transport SA writing to almost 30 construction companies, which have previously expressed interest in the project, advising of the Stage 1 tendering process.

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