

Hon Stephen Mullighan MP Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

Wednesday, 1 June, 2016

\$985m Northern Connector sets new standard in local work opportunities

The \$985m Northern Connector Project will set a new benchmark for local participation in public infrastructure projects by ensuring South Australian jobs and materials are maximised.

Major contractor Lendlease will establish NorthHub – an employment, skills and training centre to help northern jobseekers secure some of the 480 jobs a year on average on the project, particularly displaced automotive workers.

NorthHub will be a one-stop shop for vocational education and training, and other service providers to meet on-site with industry partners, subcontractors and workers.

A dedicated 'Employment Development Team' will also be established to work closely with the Northern Connector Jobs Taskforce to maximise opportunities for local workers.

Background

NorthHub will provide both classroom and on-the-job training for jobseekers such as transitioning automotive workers, apprentices, trainees and cadets, Aboriginal people and people with barriers to employment.

Lendlease partner organisations like Carey Training, Work Ready and TAFE SA will have dedicated space at the NorthHub office and each of Lendlease's industry partners will have a hot desk.

The Employment Development Team will focus on delivering industry participation requirements, including that at least half of the 480 jobs a year on average to go to northern suburbs workers, particularly those facing unemployment with the closure of Holden.

Other local participation measures will include:

- At least 90 percent of all labour hours to be undertaken by South Australians
- At least 20 percent of all labour hours to be undertaken by apprentices and trainees, Aboriginal workers and people facing barriers to employment
- Approximately 70 percent of steel used on the project will be sourced from Arrium in Whyalla

Lendlease will also appoint an Indigenous Engagement Manager to help develop and deliver initiatives such as the construction of wetlands and shared use path undertaken with direct Indigenous labour.

The Northern Connector project also supports the Northern Economic Plan, which is a blueprint for a prosperous northern Adelaide, focused on creating jobs and empowering local communities. More information is available at the [Northern Economic Plan](#) website.

Quotes attributable to Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan

When we deliver public infrastructure projects such as the Northern Connector it is vital to ensure that local businesses and workers benefit most from the investment of taxpayer funds.

That means that wherever possible, work should go to local contractors and jobs to local employees.

Lendlease is demonstrating a new standard in leveraging local industry and employment benefits as part of this almost one-billion dollar investment by the State and Federal Governments.

Quotes attributable to the head of the Northern Connector Jobs Taskforce Lee Odenwalder

It's extremely pleasing to see a major contractor such as Lendlease putting first those who should most benefit from this major construction project – the people of Adelaide's northern suburbs.

As the head of the Northern Connector Jobs Taskforce, I have been working closely with northern suburbs MPs, local government, job networks and other stakeholders to ensure we make the most of this billion-dollar investment.

Similar jobs taskforces ensured 58 per cent of the 1800 workers on the Southern Expressway duplication came from the south, while for the Northern Expressway, almost half were from the northern suburbs.

Establishing on-site training and employment providers will provide a unique opportunity to ensure local workers are best-placed to gain employment throughout the life of this major construction project.

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