

News release - Stephen Mullighan

Next phase of tender process for Stage 1 of Gawler rail electrification

Stephen Mullighan July 10, 2017

The State Government is calling for expressions of interest for Stage 1 of the transformation of the Gawler train line – the next phase of the tender process for the electrification project.

The electrification of the Gawler Line will deliver faster, safer, more reliable and more comfortable rail services which will encourage more people to leave the car at home and take public transport.

This is an important step in the project which will see early works start on the electrification between Adelaide and Salisbury by the end of the year.

The works will support 135 jobs a year during construction, while increasing capacity on one of Adelaide's busiest rail lines.

The \$152.5 million first stage is being fully funded by the State Government.

The State Government is also seeking a commitment from the Federal Turnbull Government to split the cost of completing the electrification to Gawler.

The project has been identified as a high priority by Infrastructure Australia.

The State Government allocated its share of the \$462.5 million for Stage 2 in the recent State Budget.

The State Government invited businesses to register their interest in the project in May.

During the expressions of interest phase those businesses will provide further information to support their bid. Expressions of interest will close on August 1.

A shortlist will be created with the successful companies invited to tender for the project.

Early works on the Stage 1 electrification will begin by the end of the year with major construction works to start early in 2018.

Background

The Gawler rail electrification works will include:

- Installation of the overhead wiring system including masts and gantries
- Installation of a new signalling system
- Installation of an Automatic Train Protection system
- Installation of a new fibre optic communications system cable
- Service relocations, vegetation trimming and removal and other works necessary to enable the electrification to proceed

The project will recommence after it stalled following the withdrawal of Federal funding in 2013.

In October 2013 the Federal Infrastructure and Regional Development Minister Warren Truss wrote to the State Government withdrawing \$76 million of funding from the Gawler Electrification project.

During last year's Election campaign the Federal Labor Party committed funding towards this important project.

Infrastructure Australia has identified the Gawler Electrification as a high priority initiative, with the first business case submitted in 2008.

Significant works have already been undertaken by the State Government including the installation of nearly 300 masts and rail track modification works necessary for electrification.

An upgrade of Salisbury station is currently underway which will include the installation of ticket validation gates, new ticket machines, improved CCTV and lighting, and extra disability parking.

The documents are available on the Tenders SA [website](#).

Quotes attributable to Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan

The State Labor Government has invested more than \$2 billion in transforming Adelaide's rail network to provide faster, cleaner and more efficient services.

The Gawler line is our most popular train service with patronage increasing by more than 30% in the seven years to 2016 and we want to keep improving that service and growing patronage.

On average almost 17,000 passengers use Gawler services each weekday and completing the electrification of the entire line will significantly increase capacity, allowing an extra 2400 passengers an hour to use the train in peak periods.

Stage 2 of the project from Salisbury to Gawler is ready to proceed and just needs a funding commitment from the Federal Government to give it the green light.

Even with the tender process opening today, a funding commit by the Federal Coalition would allow us to expand the tender to deliver the entire project from Adelaide to Gawler.

The first business case was submitted in 2008 and has been updated numerous times. This means there is more than enough documentation to support a Federal commitment to Stage 2 of this project.

Quotes attributable to Member for Light Tony Piccolo

The electrification of the Gawler rail line is a shovel ready project that will have an immediate and tremendous impact for our local economy.

The 2017-18 South Australian Budget committed South Australia's share towards completing stage 2 electrification of the Gawler train line. It is now time the Federal Coalition committed to their half.

For more than three years, first Tony Abbott and now Malcolm Turnbull have stood in the way of this important project.