

Hon Stephen Mullighan MP Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

Tuesday, 9 May, 2017

Gawler rail electrification project underway with first stage of tender process

The tender process for the electrification of the Gawler rail will commence on Wednesday morning with registrations of interest opened to companies seeking to tender for the project.

Stage One of the project is being fully funded by the State Government at a cost of \$152.5 million and will involve electrifying the rail line to Salisbury, supporting approximately 135 jobs per year during construction.

A matching commitment by the Commonwealth Government in tonight's Federal Budget would extend the electrification even further and support even more South Australian jobs during construction.

Companies with experience in rail electrification works will be able register from tomorrow for the next stage in the State Government's transformation of Adelaide's rail network, delivering faster, cleaner, more frequent and more efficient services.

Signalling system upgrades and public safety improvements, including pedestrian level crossing enhancements and corridor fencing, will also form part of the Stage One works.

The Gawler electrification project will strictly adhere to the State Government's policy requiring all steel to be sourced from Australian-standard certified fabricators and mills.

It will also adhere to the Government's Industry Participation Policy which supports local jobs and local contractors.

Registrations of interest are being called via the [SA Tenders and Contracts](#) website.

Companies which register will then be able to complete full submissions from July 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 gantry supports
- Installation of a new signalling system
- Installation of an Automatic Train Protection system
- Installation of a new fibre optic communications system cable
- Installation of protective works and modifications to existing infrastructure
- 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 to reinstating the lost federal funding.

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 footings 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.

Other major rail infrastructure projects currently underway include:

- \$238m Torrens Rail Junction Upgrade Project which includes removing the Park Terrace level crossing and the need for passenger and freight trains to stop to give way to one another
- \$12m signalling cable replacement across the rail network
- \$4m station and security upgrades

Other works completed on the rail network include:

- Seaford rail extension, electrification of the Seaford and Tonsley lines and 22 new electric 3-car trains for the Seaford and Tonsley lines
- Various track upgrades across all lines including concrete sleepers, drainage and track formation treatment, rail replacement and alignment improvements
- \$110m for the Goodwood Junction Upgrade to separate passenger and freight lines to improve on-time running and efficiency, and the new Adelaide Showground Station
- \$35m South Road overpass as part of the Torrens Road to River Torrens Project
- \$4m Port River rail bridge upgrade
- Relocation of the Adelaide Rolling Stock maintenance facility to Dry Creek
- Station upgrades across the network with new railway stations at Adelaide Showground, Munno Para, St Clair, Oaklands Park, Elizabeth, Mawson Interchange, Seaford, Hallett Cove and Hallett Cove Beach and Seaford Meadows.

Quotes attributable to Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan

This is the first stage of a long-awaited project which will provide real transport benefits to commuters in Adelaide's northern suburbs.

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

Patronage on the Gawler line rose by more than 30% over the seven years to 2016, making it Adelaide's most popular train network and we want to keep growing that patronage.

Almost 5 million trips were recorded on the Gawler line last financial year and that doesn't factor in the hundreds of thousands of free trips taken on our trains every year with services such as the MAC Footy Express.

If not for the Federal Liberal Government's decision to withdraw funding from the project when Tony Abbott was elected Prime Minister we would be able to complete even more of this important public transport project.

We will continue to lobby Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to recommit to this project so that we deliver significant improvements to this busy rail service.

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