

# News releases - Tom Koutsantonis

## **\$20 million boost for AdeLINK tram network – more trams, more stops**

Tom Koutsantonis

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Tomorrow's 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget Review will include an additional \$20 million investment to purchase three additional trams and construct an additional stop at Festival Plaza.

Following an extensive planning investigation for the first stage of the EastLINK and CityLINK to the East End, construction of the new stop was recommended to ensure better value for taxpayers and minimise future disruption at one of Adelaide's busiest intersections.

The new stop will also improve access to the Festival Plaza which is being transformed into a world-class destination which will be the heart of Adelaide's Riverbank entertainment precinct.

Expanding the State's tram fleet will ensure Adelaide Metro can cater for further increases in patronage once the new extensions are completed at the end of next year, weather permitting.

The three additional trams will boost capacity on the tram network and complement the existing modern fleet of 21 Flexity and Citadis trams.

With three additional trams, a 10-minute free shuttle service could transport more than 2000 people an hour between the educational, cultural health and entertainment precincts along the Riverbank.

Together the tramline extension to the East End and new stop at Festival Plaza are expected to support about 83 jobs during construction.

### **Background**

Works on the new Festival Plaza stop are scheduled to commence in the first quarter of next year and be completed by the end of 2017, weather permitting.

This will be the Labor Government's third new order of trams, with orders in 2006 and 2009, and the third tram extension, after the 2007 extension to the Adelaide Railway Station and in 2010 to the Entertainment Centre.

These extensions will see an additional four new stops added to the network – at the redeveloped Festival Plaza, SA Museum, Adelaide University and the old Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Adelaide Metro has already achieved record patronage on the tram network with more than 9.2 million trips taken in 2015/16, compared to just 2.06 million in 2005/06.

The former Liberal Government did not order a single new tram in its time in office. Heritage H-class trams were used on a neglected network which only travelled between Glenelg and Victoria Square.

### **Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis**

The new trams and additional stop we are announcing today come after the Government committed to a \$50 million tram extension along North Terrace to the East End as part of the State Budget handed down in July.

This announcement builds on that commitment, which is the first stage of the AdeLINK tram network and part of the State Government's plan to massively expand our tram network to the north, south, east and west.

These new trams will increase the frequency of services, while the new stop will limit disruption to the North Terrace intersection and bring passengers right to the doorstep of the Festival Centre.

**Quotes attributable to Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan**

Expanding our tram network will attract investment, boost economic growth and encourage urban renewal and jobs, and bring residents and visitors to the city centre.

While a majority of benefit will be to public transport customers, expanding our tram network will also play a crucial role in addressing the congestion challenges we face across the metropolitan area.

Today's announcement continues our commitment to prioritise major transport infrastructure initiatives which will improve the day-to-day experience of South Australian public transport users.

**Quotes attributable to City of Adelaide Lord Mayor Martin Haese**

I congratulate the State Government on its continued investment in city infrastructure, particularly in relation to projects which make it easier for people to get around the CBD.

It's fantastic to see the tram line extended in a northerly direction, as well as to the east, which will now connect the burgeoning Riverbank Precinct, Festival Centre and nearby Elder Park to the network.

By encouraging more people to use low-emission public transport, this project also contributes to our mutual aims of making Adelaide a carbon neutral city by 2025.