Project update

Construction of the Darlington Upgrade Project has progressed significantly in the past few months.

From the start of 2017, works have been focussed on the southern end of the project near the Southern Expressway and have steadily moved north towards Tonsley.

Many of the enabling works such as relocation of the SA Water main, sewer, stormwater and telecommunications are reaching completion.

Piling works to support bridges and retaining walls are now 60% complete and the surface roads on each side of Main South Road are almost complete.

Construction has started on the two bridges that carry traffic from Main South Road over the Southern Expressway to the lowered motorway and the at grade surface roads.

We have also started constructing the Flinders Drive extension to Sturt Road and the Flinders Drive bridge.

The Flinders Drive bridge is being constructed in two stages to minimise traffic impacts and maintain traffic flow.

Noise wall construction is well advanced at Tonsley and Bedford Park, while work on the Sturt River bridge continues.

Traffic flow through the project site will change.

The Darlington Upgrade Project team is working hard to achieve our next major milestone – switching traffic onto the newly constructed surface roads.

The 'traffic switch' is programmed to occur over two weekends later in the year. Once in place, the new traffic arrangements will allow works on the lowered motorway to begin.

Further information about the traffic switch will be provided in the near future.

We would like to thank residents, road users, local workers and businesses for their patience during the works.
The Darlington Upgrade Project is excited to be constructing bridges using a method never undertaken before in Australia on such a large scale.

Two new bridges over the Southern Expressway are being built off-site, and will be transported and manoeuvred into their final positions using modular transporters (large platform vehicles).

The bridges will be manoeuvred into position at a speed of around 1 km per hour. Each bridge is 180 metres long and weighs up to 3,000 tonnes.

This method of construction will significantly reduce traffic impacts at major intersections along this busy section of Main South Road.

To safely install the bridges, two weekend closures of the section of Main South Road between Flinders Drive and Flagstaff Road and the Southern Expressway between the Marion off ramp and the intersection of Main South Road will be required when the bridges are installed.

More information on the weekend bridge installation will be provided in the lead up to the works.

Innovation in bridge construction

More than 1,500 piles are being installed as part of the project with almost half of these now complete. Varying in depths of up to 30 metres, these piles will support bridges and retaining walls.

Piling works reach the halfway mark

Noise walls are currently being installed at a number of locations in order to manage the impact of road traffic noise from the project.

There may also be a requirement for acoustic treatments such as double glazing to be installed at some properties. We will confirm this with affected property owners in the near future. These works will be undertaken separately to the installation of noise walls.
Working with the community

Sturt River protection works and rehabilitation

The project team has been working closely with the local community to protect and rehabilitate the Sturt River environs, including erosion control and planting of native species.

A major Gross Pollutant Trap has been installed near the Southern Expressway. This will intercept pollutants and treat stormwater before it enters this important waterway.

Managing construction impacts

Whilst noise, dust and vibration cannot be completely eliminated on large projects, the Darlington Upgrade Project is using a number of methods to minimise impacts including:

- Watering down work areas and stock piles
- Using dust suppression products to stabilise unsealed surfaces
- Covering materials carried away by trucks
- Frequently using street sweepers
- Maintaining equipment to minimise vibration
- Undertaking noisy activities during the day whenever possible
- Using low noise reversing ‘squawkers’ instead of traditional beepers.

We also undertake regular monitoring to ensure compliance with guidelines.

For more information about how construction impacts are being managed, see the Frequently Asked Questions on the website.

The Darlington Upgrade Project is registered with the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia

An infrastructure sustainability tool is used to measure the sustainability of infrastructure projects and assets across their design, construction and operation and rates performance against six themes:

- management and governance
- using resources
- emissions
- pollution and waste
- ecology
- people and place
- innovation

To find out more about ISCA and the Infrastructure Sustainability Rating Tool, you can visit www.isca.org.au

Pedestrian access

Pedestrian access along and over Main South Road will be maintained during construction. However, at times, changes to access may be required for safety reasons and detours may apply.

For the latest information about pedestrian access arrangements please visit the project website.

Artists impression of the two new bridges over the Southern Expressway, looking north
The Darlington Upgrade Project would like to thank residents and businesses for their patience and support

Service relocations and the construction of roads and noise walls has meant that the project has had to work very close to – sometimes inside – private properties.

The support given to us by residents, workers and business operators during these works has been exceptional.

We would like to extend a warm thank you to all who we have had interactions with in the suburbs of Tonsley, Bedford Park, St Marys, Clovelly Park and Darlington.

We are planning to host a family ‘Thank You BBQ’ once the weather improves to show our appreciation. Keep an eye on your letterbox for an invitation. We hope to see you there!

Important reminder
Support our local businesses

As the project progresses please remember that BUSINESSES ARE OPEN on South Road, Main South Road, Sturt Road and the local side streets.

We encourage you to support local businesses. Access to businesses will be maintained and disruptions minimised as much as possible.

For more information

Call: 1300 759 334
Email: enquiries@gatewaysouth.com.au
Visit: infrastructure.sa.gov.au/darlington
Drop into the site office: Corner of Laffer Drive and Sturt Road, Bedford Park

The project also supports equitable access to information. Translation of project information will be provided on request.