1. **What is the Southern Expressway Duplication?**

1.1 **Project overview**

The Southern Expressway is an 18.5 kilometre single carriageway road connecting Main South Road at Darlington with Main South Road at Old Noarlunga. It provides for travel in one direction only. On weekdays traffic flows north from 2:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (including the morning commuter peak) and south from 2:00pm to 12:30am (including the afternoon commuter peak). During the 90 minute changeover period access to the road is progressively closed and re-opened to traffic. On weekends and public holidays the times for northbound and southbound traffic flows are reversed.

The Southern Expressway is entered or exited via ramps at six locations: Main South Road at Darlington and Old Noarlunga, Marion Road, Panalatinga Road, Sherriffs Road and Beach Road. The direction of traffic flow on the ramps is also reversible.

The existing expressway provides for high-speed, free-flow travel. Restricted access to the road, due to its one-way reversible operation, means that many intended users (including freight movement and commercial trips into and out of the southern region) must often use the conventional two-way routes on Main South Road and along Ocean Boulevard–Lonsdale Road–Dyson Road.

The Southern Expressway Duplication project (‘the project’) will transform the reversible expressway into a conventional two-way expressway. It will replicate the existing carriageway generally to its west. The new carriageway will have three lanes from Darlington to Reynella and two lanes from Reynella and Old Noarlunga. The project will also widen the existing expressway bridges over local roads, lengthen pedestrian and road bridges over the Southern Expressway, and add new on-ramps and off-ramps at existing interchanges.

This Project Impact Report describes the project, summarises the investigations completed as part of the project, and outlines measures to avoid or minimise effects from the project.

**Figure 1.1** illustrates the project and local road network.

1.2 **Project context**

Duplication of the Southern Expressway to provide a high standard two-way facility is a strategically significant initiative that supports key objectives of the *Strategic Infrastructure Plan for South Australia 204/5–2014/15* (Government of South Australia 2005) and *The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide* (DPLG 2010).

The State Government announced its intention to create a free-flow north–south corridor between the Port River Expressway and the Southern Expressway when it released the Strategic Infrastructure Plan in 2005. The 30-Year Plan projects significant expansion in the southern and Fleurieu regions up to the year 2038. To deliver the outcomes of the 30-Year Plan and open new opportunities for economic development by connecting the rapidly expanding industrial and residential growth areas in the north and the south, the State Government has broadened the scope of Adelaide’s north–south transport corridor. It will now extend 78 kilometres from Gawler to Old Noarlunga in a series of four strategic free flow road links:

- Northern Expressway from Gawler to Port Wakefield Road
- Northern Connector from Port Wakefield Road to the Port River Expressway
- South Road corridor from Port River Expressway to the Southern Expressway
Southern Expressway from Darlington to Old Noarlunga (this project).

**Figure 1.2** illustrates the regional area including the strategic free flow road links from north to south.

The Southern Expressway is an integral component of the road transport system in metropolitan Adelaide as a:

- strategic route linking the southern region and the wider metropolitan area
- primary freight and commuter route
- route for express public transport services during periods of high travel demand to and from the southern suburbs.

### 1.3 Project objectives

The overall project objective is:

*To enhance the current functionality, as a major road corridor to and from the south by duplicating the existing one way facility.*

Specific objectives are to:

- improve accessibility for people living in the southern region for employment, education, shopping and community facilities in the south and wider metropolitan area
- improve accessibility for commercial traffic to industry related facilities in the wider metropolitan area
- improve accessibility to tourist locations on Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island
- support economic development in the southern region
- provide shorter travel times, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- improve road safety
- provide unrestricted access for emergency services travelling on the Southern Expressway.

### 1.4 Project staging and timeframes

The project comprises five stages from concept planning through to post-construction (**Table 1.1**). Construction is expected to start late 2011 and be completed and open to traffic by mid-2014.
Southern Expressway Duplication Project Impact Report

Figure 1.1

Southern Expressway and local road network

Structures
- Interchange
- Southern Expressway Overpass
- Southern Expressway Underpass
- Pedestrian access
Major infrastructure projects across the region

- Northern Expressway
- Future Proposed Northern Connector
- South Road Superway
- North-South Corridor
- Southern Expressway Duplication

Figure 1.2
Table 1.1 Indicative timing for the project

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<th>Activities</th>
<th>Timing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Concept planning</td>
<td>Alignment, interchanges, bridges concept planning</td>
<td>October 2010–April 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Initial consultation with key stakeholders</td>
<td>October 2010–April 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Preliminary environmental investigations on concept design</td>
<td>November 2010–April 2011</td>
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<td>Phase 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIR Process</td>
<td>Project Impact Report (PIR) with concept design and display for public consultation</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
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<td>Supplement to the PIR</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
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<td>Phase 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-construction</td>
<td>Tender period and evaluation for design and construct contract</td>
<td>March–November 2011</td>
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<td>Detailed design</td>
<td>Mid to late 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Obtain environmental and other approvals</td>
<td>Mid to late 2011</td>
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<td>Phase 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Construction of Southern Expressway</td>
<td>Late 2011 to mid-2014</td>
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<td>Phase 5</td>
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<td>Post-construction</td>
<td>Operation and maintenance</td>
<td>Mid-2014 onwards</td>
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