

23MIT10322



**Government  
of South Australia**

Office of the  
**Minister for Infrastructure  
and Transport**  
**Minister for Energy and  
Mining**

Level 14, 83 Pirie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1533  
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel 08 7133 1100

minister.koutsantonis@sa.gov.au

Hon David Speirs MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
[leaderoftheopposition@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:leaderoftheopposition@parliament.sa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Speirs

## **APPLICATION UNDER THE *FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1991***

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), dated 10 October 2023.

Your application seeks access to:

*“Documents including but not limited to emails, correspondence briefings and memoranda regarding Riverlea, from 1/07/2023 to 10/10/2023.”*

An extensive search was conducted within this office. A total of 10 documents were identified as answering the terms of your application.

I grant you access in full to 4 documents; copies of which are enclosed.  
I grant you access in part to 5 documents; copies of which are enclosed.  
I refuse you access in full to 1 document.

### **Documents Released in Full**

4, 7, 8 and 10

### **Documents Released in Part**

Documents 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 are released in part with names of the general public redacted, as if released would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information. I therefore determine this information exempt pursuant to clause 6 to the FOI Act.

Out of scope information not pertaining to the scope of your request has also been redacted.

### **Documents Refused in Full**

Document 9 is a copy of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport 2022-2023 Annual Report. This report is publicly available and therefore has not been provided to you.

## **Exemptions**

### **Clause 6 – Documents affecting personal affairs**

- (1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

No fees and charges are payable for this application.

If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to apply for an internal review, in accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act. To make an internal review application, please either write a letter or complete *Application for Review of Determination* form, to the Principal Officer of this agency, the Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP, within 30 (calendar) days after you receive this letter.

If you require any further information, please contact Vicky Cathro on (08) 7133 1100.

Yours sincerely



**Carly McNeill**  
Accredited FOI Officer

9 / 11 / 2023

**RELEASE**



# From the office of the Mayor

Glenn Docherty  
8256 0188  
MayorDocherty@playford.sa.gov.au



28 July 2023

The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
GPO Box 1533  
Adelaide SA 5001  
Via email: [Minister.Koutsantonis@sa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Koutsantonis@sa.gov.au)

Dear Minister Koutsantonis

At the City of Playford Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25 July 2023, Council resolved the following motion;

**That in light of the recent Adelaide Metro bus improvements deriving from Riverlea (routes 402 and 450), the Mayor write to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Honourable Tom Koutsantonis MP, asking the Department for Infrastructure and Transport to:**

- **Create an additional stop on Supple Road, between McEvoy Road and Ryan Road in Waterloo Corner, by amending either the 402 or 450 bus routes;**
- **Create an additional stop on Womma Road for Route 450, between Stop 79 and Stebonheath Road (preferably in front of the Eyre Sales Centre); and**
- **Advise when it is likely that an express service between Riverlea and the Adelaide CBD will be implemented.**

City of Playford

Call — 08 8256 0333  
playford@playford.sa.gov.au  
playford.sa.gov.au

Post

12 Bishopstone Road  
Davoren Park SA 5113

Visit

Playford Civic Centre  
10 Playford Boulevard  
Elizabeth SA 5112

Stretton Centre  
307 Peachey Road  
Munno Para SA 5115

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to receiving your response so that I may advise the Council of the outcome of this request.

Yours sincerely,



**Glenn Docherty**  
**MAYOR**

---

**City of Playford**

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307 Peachey Road  
Munno Para SA 5115



Mr Jon Holbrook  
[ionholbrook56@gmail.com](mailto:ionholbrook56@gmail.com)

Dear Mr Holbrook

Thank you for your email dated 16 August 2023 to myself and the Premier, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, about traffic congestion and transport options in Adelaide. As this matter relates to my responsibilities as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Premier has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Malinauskas Labor Government is committed to delivering a modern public transport system that is quick, efficient, safe, clean and environmentally friendly.

Since returning to office, the Malinauskas Labor Government has implemented a number of measures to benefit public transport users and attract more people towards using public transport, including:

- Reaching an agreement with Keolis Downer Adelaide and Torrens Connect to return the train and tram network into public hands, putting an end to the unnecessary privatisation by the former Marshall Liberal Government.
- Easing cost of living pressures for senior card holders by providing free public transport on all Adelaide Metro services 24/7.
- Making public transport more accessible by introducing Tap and Pay on Adelaide Metro buses and commencing the roll-out on our train network.
- Awarding contracts to accelerate our states zero-emission public transport network.
- Targeted campaigns to identify and target unruly behaviour and fare evasion.
- Introducing two new bus services, routes 402 and 450, to connect the new suburb of Riverlea with Virginia, Salisbury and Elizabeth.

Additionally, the government is delivering on its election commitment to re-establish the Port Adelaide rail spur line, which will link Port Adelaide's commercial centre and residential precinct to the Adelaide CBD, and has committed to introducing a new Go-Zone bus service for residents in Lightview and Northgate.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) is currently undertaking planning work to investigate transport issues related to future demand. Central to those investigations is consideration of public transport as a mode for mass passenger transport.

This includes delivering our election commitment to undertake a Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills Transport Study, which will examine key transport issues impacting the growth of Mount Barker and the Adelaide Hills region to help future transport planning and decision making.

This study commenced in September 2022 and has included a technical assessment of the transport network in the Adelaide Hills as well as stakeholder and community engagement, with further engagement expected to take place later this year.

An Area Transport Study report is also being prepared that outlines key issues impacting the region, including potential focus areas for future transport improvements.

Planning is also now underway for the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Transport Study, which will inform future transport planning and investment in the region.

Another way we are future-proofing our road network and connecting our growing communities is by delivering the River Torrens to Darlington Project (T2D Project).

Using a combination of tunnels, lowered and surface-level motorway, as well as overpasses and underpasses at key intersections, the T2D Project will complete the North-South Corridor, creating 78 kilometres of non-stop, traffic light-free motorway between Gawler and Old Noarlunga.

By moving thousands of vehicles into underground tunnels and bypassing 21 sets of traffic lights, the T2D Project will connect communities across Greater Adelaide. The commute from West Hindmarsh to Darlington will take just nine minutes, saving 30 to 40 minutes of travel time during peak hour traffic.

On a final note, the Malinauskas Labor Government is committed to improving active transport opportunities, including cycling, in South Australia. At the election, we committed to producing a Pedestrian, Cyclist, Green Space and Connectivity Guide which will lead future transport infrastructure project development. Development of this guide is currently underway.

To view the Department's Forward Work Plan for 2022 to 2025 – which includes the road, rail, marine, public transport, active travel, planning studies and community projects that will be delivered over the next three years across regional and metropolitan areas of the state – we encourage you to visit [www.dit.sa.gov.au/about-us/strategies-plans/forward-work-plan](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/about-us/strategies-plans/forward-work-plan).

I can assure you that our government is focused on delivering quality public transport services and reversing the privatisation of train and tram services, instigated by the former Liberal government.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP**  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

6 / 9 / 2023

The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP



Government of South Australia

23MIT9067

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Minister for Energy and Mining  
Level 14, 83 Pirie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
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Tel 08 7133 1100  
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Mayor Glenn Docherty  
City of Playford  
[mayordocherty@playford.sa.gov.au](mailto:mayordocherty@playford.sa.gov.au)

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter dated 28 July 2023, about Adelaide Metro bus improvements in the City of Playford.

After receiving your correspondence, I asked the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) for advice who has provided the following information.

- **Additional stop on Supple Road, between McEvoy Road and Ryan Road in Waterloo Corner.**

Whilst the Department acknowledges the benefits some passengers would receive by re-routing route 402 along Supple Road, this would require additional funding to add the extra distance for the diversion and add time to passengers' journey. Additionally, the route path to Supple Road on the western side of Port Wakefield Road would likely mean that the township of Virginia is missed, the largest population area in the region and a high patronage generator.

- **Create an additional stop on Womma Road for route 450 between stop 79 and Stebonheath Road.**

The Department advises it will investigate the installation of a bus stop on Womma Road between Eyre Boulevard and Stebonheath Road. This section is 60 km/h; further west the speed increases to 80km/h. Any new bus stop must comply with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* which includes a cement pad and tactile. Funding would need to be sourced to install any stop, however, the Department acknowledges that this will provide better access to public transport for the growing area of Eyre.

I am advised that the Department has been in contact with the City of Playford regarding this proposal.

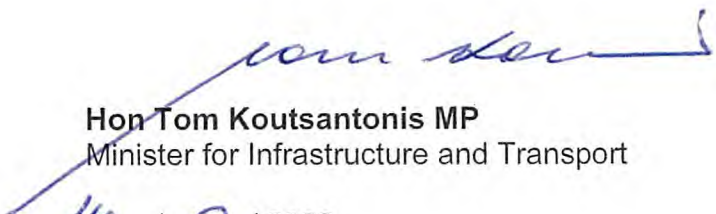
- **Advise when it is likely that an express service between Riverlea and the Adelaide CBD will be implemented.**

The Department advises there are no plans to implement a direct service between Riverlea and the Adelaide CBD. Passengers are able to transfer between route 402 and the Gawler train services at Salisbury Station or between route 450 and the Gawler train services at Elizabeth Station.



Transferring between services is common practice in the provision of mass public transport systems, not only in Adelaide but around the world. This is to make maximum use of the train dedicated corridor and to provide a cost-effective network in a low-density city while catering for a large number of passengers with diverse travel patterns.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP**  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

14 / 9 / 2023

# Media Release



**Tom Koutsantonis MP**  
Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

Monday 24 July 2023

## **Adelaide Metro services expand to new Riverlea Park residential development**

Adelaide Metro is expanding its bus services to the new Riverlea Park residential estate from this week following a public transport plan being agreed and funded by the Developer with the State Government.

The Government and Walker Corporation have agreed on a 10-year public transport plan with the first bus services to the estate, 35km north of Adelaide, beginning on 24 July 2023.

More than 30,000 people are expected to call the \$3 billion Riverlea Park estate home over the next 25 years. The first residents moved into their new homes in October last year.

Under the agreement, Walker Corporation will invest \$3 million to extend two Adelaide Metro bus routes to Riverlea Park.

From this month, the existing Route 900 between Salisbury and Virginia will be renumbered Route 402 and extended to Riverlea Park. This route will increase from two to three services in each of the AM and PM peaks on weekdays only.

The Elizabeth to Virginia portion of Route 900 will be renumbered Route 450 and will also be extended to Riverlea Park.

Services will be hourly between 6:30am to 3:30pm to Elizabeth and hourly from 10am to 7:30pm to Riverlea Park on weekdays only, increasing from the current two services during peak periods.

Both new routes will be linked with the interchanges at Salisbury and Elizabeth, and train services on the Gawler Line to make it easier for residents to commute to work and school.

Adelaide Metro will monitor service levels at Riverlea Park as the number of residents continues to increase.

**Media contact:** Tom Richardson 0416 144 977

[premier.sa.gov.au](http://premier.sa.gov.au)

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

*Residents moving into a new housing estate have a reasonable expectation that they will have access to services, including public transport.*

*I applaud Walker Corporation for working with the Government to extend Adelaide Metro bus services to Riverlea Park residents.*

*This is a significant agreement that has been reached. The financial contribution from Walker Corporation will assist in providing an important service to the community at a reduced cost to taxpayers.*

### **Quotes attributable to Brian Virgo, Walker Corporation General Manager, Riverlea**

*Connectivity is one of the main pillars of our masterplanned communities and establishing a bus route from day one gives residents convenience and easy access to sustainable transport.*

*We will continue working with the SA Government, Playford Council and our new Riverlea Community to deliver the infrastructure needed to create a world-class, well-connected neighbourhood where people want to live, work and visit.*

**RELEASE IN PART**

**DIT:Minister Koutsantonis**

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**From:** DPC:PCU <DPCPCU@sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 July 2023 10:48 AM  
**To:** DIT:Minister Koutsantonis  
**Subject:** Direct Reply Required - **Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs** Suggestion for Public Transport in South Australia  
**Categories:** Printed

**Direct Reply Required**



Office of the Premier  
of South Australia

Office of the Premier Reference: **'B355764'**

Due Back to the Premier's Office: **20-07-2023**

The Office of the Premier requests that your agency takes action based on the following request:

**Direct Reply Required**

**Subject:** **Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs** - Suggestion for Public Transport in South Australia

Please use the following [Secure Connect Workspace](#) when actioning your request.

*"Please provide a direct reply in the way your office deems most appropriate (i.e. by phone, email from office, response from Minister or response from agency) and advise of action taken."*

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Kind Regards,

**Office of the Premier**

e [DPCPCU@sa.gov.au](mailto:DPCPCU@sa.gov.au) | W [premier.sa.gov.au](http://premier.sa.gov.au)

Level 15, State Administration Centre, 200 Victoria Square, ADELAIDE SA 5000

**Nicolaou, Chris (DIT)**

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**From:** MCU - MinCorro <mincorro@pmc.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 July 2023 11:06 AM  
**To:** DPC:PCU  
**Subject:** Referred record from Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet - MC23-055556 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Task\_PDR Details.pdf; Ext\_Corro\_MC23-055556.pdf  
**Categories:** Andrew O, Printed

**OFFICIAL**

Please find attached correspondence sent to the Prime Minister.

As this matter falls within your responsibilities, it is being referred to you for any necessary action.

Should you require further information regarding the attached correspondence, please contact the Ministerial Correspondence and Briefs Section at [mincorro@pmc.gov.au](mailto:mincorro@pmc.gov.au) or 02 6271 5566 (Option 1).

Thank you for your assistance.

Ministerial Correspondence and Briefs  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**TASK DETAILS**

PDRId: MC23-055556  
Subject: Enhanced Public Transport in South Australia  
Correspondence date: 4/07/2023 12:48:18 AM  
Correspondence method: Email

**INITIATOR(S) DETAILS**

Formal Title: Clause 6 (1) -  
Title: Clause 6 (1) -  
First Name: Personal  
Last Name: Clause 6 (1) -  
Address Line 1: Clause 6 (1) - Personal  
Suburb or City: Personal Affairs  
State: SA Clause 6 (1) -  
Post Code: 6 (1) -  
Phone: Clause 6 (1) - Personal  
Email: Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs

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IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

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TASK DETAILS

PDRId: MC23-055556

Subject: Enhanced Public Transport in South Australia

Correspondence date: 4/07/2023 12:48:18 AM

Correspondence method: Email

INITIATOR(S) DETAILS

Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs



04/07/2023 10:48:18 AM

Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs



Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs

PM Correspondence - Urgent Need for Enhanced Public Transport in South Australia

Dear Prime Minister Albanese,

I write to urgently draw your attention to the critical need for enhanced public transport infrastructure in South Australia. As our nation strives for sustainability and progress, Adelaide requires immediate support to build a robust public transport network that caters to the needs of our growing population.

Adelaide's heavy reliance on car usage and the lack of efficient public transport options are contributing to increasing road congestion and environmental concerns. The state's potential road congestion costs, estimated to reach \$2.25 billion by 2030, demand immediate action.

I implore you to prioritize funding and resources for Adelaide's public transport initiatives, including the expansion of tram networks, improved rail links, and better connectivity to urban developments like the Riverlea Park project in Buckland Park and Mount Barker.

As Prime Minister, your support in promoting sustainable transportation solutions will not only benefit Adelaide but set a precedent for other regions facing similar challenges. By investing in public transport, we can alleviate traffic congestion, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance the quality of life for all South Australians.

I kindly request your leadership in collaborating with the South Australian government to address these pressing transportation issues and pave the way for a more sustainable and livable future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to witnessing positive change for Adelaide and our nation's transportation landscape.

Sincerely,





MINUTES *forming* ENCLOSURE to

23MIT7936 – fB350028

**Government  
of South Australia**

TO: PREMIER

Office of the  
Minister for Infrastructure  
and Transport  
Minister for Energy and  
Mining  
Level 14, 83 Pirie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
GPO Box 1533  
Adelaide SA 5001  
Tel 08 7133 1100  
minister.koutsantonis@sa.gov.au

RE: PORT WAKEFIELD HIGHWAY, INTERSECTION WITH ANGLE  
VALE ROAD AND THE ST VINCENT HIGHWAY, YORKE  
PENINSULA

## PURPOSE

- To respond to the correspondence from **Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs** regarding the Port Wakefield Highway, intersection with Angle Vale Road and the St Vincent Highway, Yorke Peninsula.

## BACKGROUND

- On 18 May 2023, **Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs** wrote to you regarding the Port Wakefield Highway, intersection with Angle Vale Road and the St Vincent Highway, Yorke Peninsula.
- The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) has provided the following response.

## DISCUSSION


### *Port Wakefield Highway and Angle Vale Road*

- On 5 June 2003, the then Minister for Urban Development and Planning declared the Buckland Park (township) development proposal (now Riverlea Development) as a major development.
- Riverlea is a staged development based on a master plan accommodating approximately 12,000 residential allotments and intended to be staged over approximately 25 years. To date, approximately 1,000 lots have been sold.
- The development will also include schools, shopping centres, parks, employment areas, and mixed-use precincts.
- It is bounded by the Gawler River, Port Wakefield Highway, horticulture and grazing land and the Cheetham Salt Pans. It is approximately 32 kilometres (km) from the Adelaide CBD (Attachment 1 – Locality Plan). The nearest regional shopping/community centres are Salisbury and Elizabeth, with local shopping at Virginia.
- Access to the site has been a key issue for the development as the land is sited on the western side of Port Wakefield Highway and does not adjoin any existing urban development or other arterial roads (Attachment 2 – Development Extent and Context).

- The type of intersection treatment was the subject of continued discussions between Walker Corporation and the Department between 2007 and 2011.
- The Department's early preference was for grade separation on Port Wakefield Highway. A requirement of the development authorisation in 2010, was for the developer to provide final design drawings for the Port Wakefield Highway/Angle Vale Road Riverlea Boulevard intersection to the satisfaction of the Department.
- A staged access arrangement was subsequently agreed upon with the developer in 2011. The staged arrangement considered the projected traffic volumes associated with the development and considered the existing road network at that time.
- At the time of approval of the development in 2010, the Northern Expressway was under construction and the North South Motorway was only in the planning phase.
- The staged upgrading arrangement ensures that traffic impacts associated with the development are appropriately addressed at each stage, thus minimising impacts to traffic flow and safety on Port Wakefield Highway.
- The staged access arrangements comprise three stages (after the initial construction stage) these are as follows:
  - **Interim At-Grade Signalised Intersection (complete):** this involved the provision of a four-way signalised intersection at the intersection of Port Wakefield Road, Angle Vale Road and Riverlea Boulevard, which was funded by the developer.
  - **Ultimate At-Grade Signalised Intersection:** the creation of 3,400 allotments in the Riverlea Development will trigger a further upgrade of the at-grade intersection. The agreement also includes a review of traffic generation and operation of the signals at the creation of 2,000 allotments to confirm the original 3,400 allotment trigger. The ultimate at-grade intersection includes additional lanes on all approaches that will accommodate anticipated development traffic to 2031 (generated 9,000 allotments). This upgrading to the ultimate at-grade intersection is to be funded by the developer.
  - **Grade Separation:** a grade separation of the intersection is required in the longer term should the development proceed as envisaged by the developer. The grade separation would be funded by the State and/or Federal Government. No funding is currently committed to the provision of grade separation given that the infrastructure is unlikely to be warranted in the short term.
- The upgrade of the junction to a fully controlled signalised four-way intersection, along with reducing the speed zone to 90 km per hour and providing advance intersection warning signs has been completed.
- The intersection has been designed in accordance with all relevant Austroads Guides, Australian and Departmental standards.
- Notwithstanding, the Department continues to review the operation of the intersection which includes a review of the signal operation, the position of the flashing advanced warning signs and other traffic control devices. Any improvements that may be identified as part of this review will be considered for implementation.

## RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that you consider the attached draft response to **Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs** regarding the Port Wakefield Highway, intersection with Angle Vale Road and the St Vincent Highway, Yorke Peninsula.

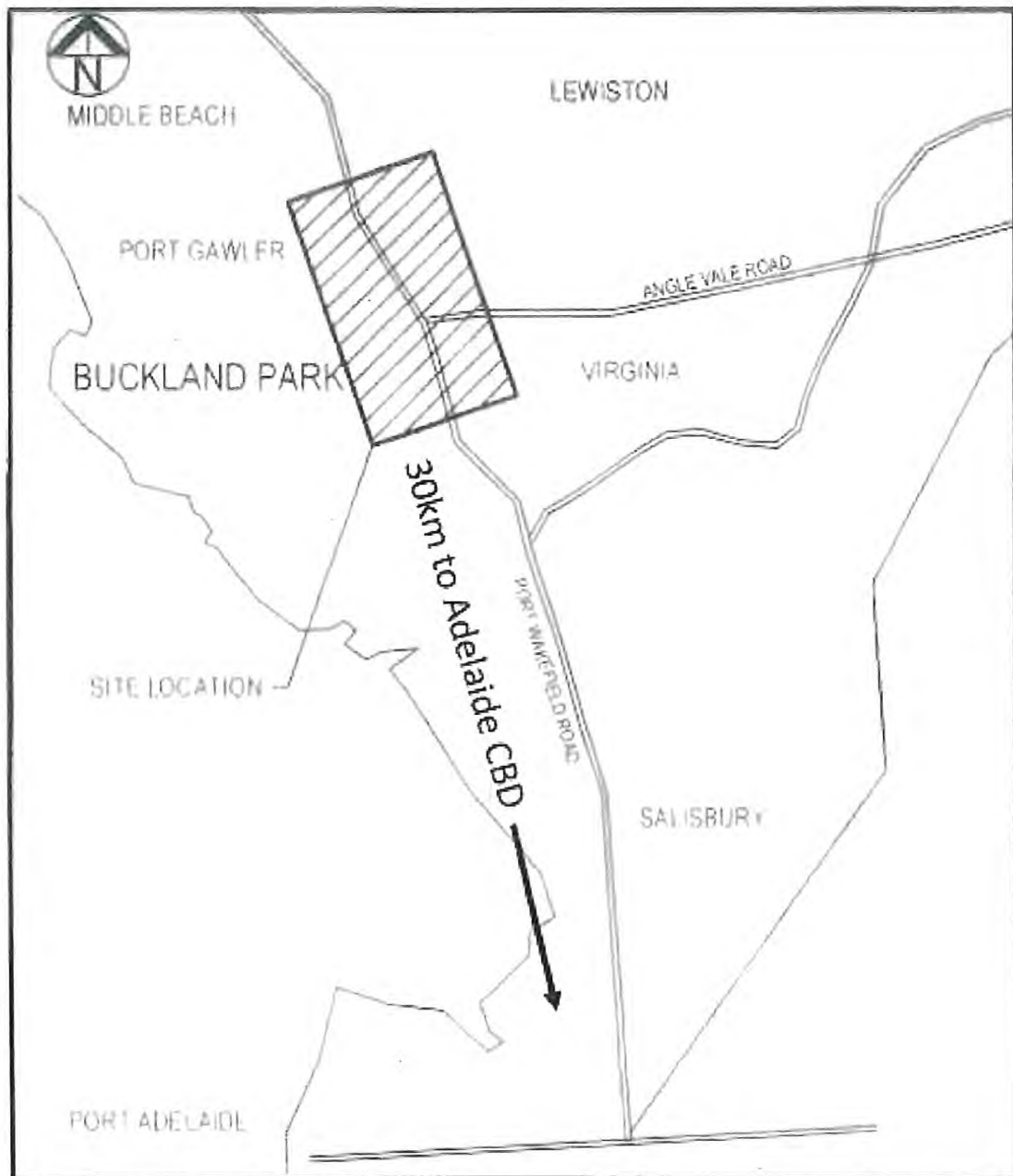


Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

6 / 17 / 2023

Attachment 1: Locality Plan.  
Attachment 2: Development Extent and Context.

ATTACHMENT 1 – LOCALITY PLAN



**ATTACHMENT 2 – DEVELOPMENT EXTENT AND CONTEXT**



fb350028

Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs

Dear Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs

Thank you for your letter about the Port Wakefield Highway intersection with Angle Vale Road at Riverlea and the St Vincent Highway, Yorke Peninsula. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I always appreciate receiving suggestions regarding how our transport system can be improved to better meet the needs of the community.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) has advised me that the Riverlea Development was authorised in 2010, around the time of the completion of the Northern Expressway and prior to the commencement of the Northern Connector project in 2016.

For developments of this scale, the Department enters into a Deed Agreement with the developer that outlines necessary infrastructure provision to manage the traffic impacts associated with the development. In this case, the approved access arrangements to the Riverlea development site are to happen in three distinct stages. As the development progresses, the intersection is periodically upgraded to meet expected traffic demand for the development.

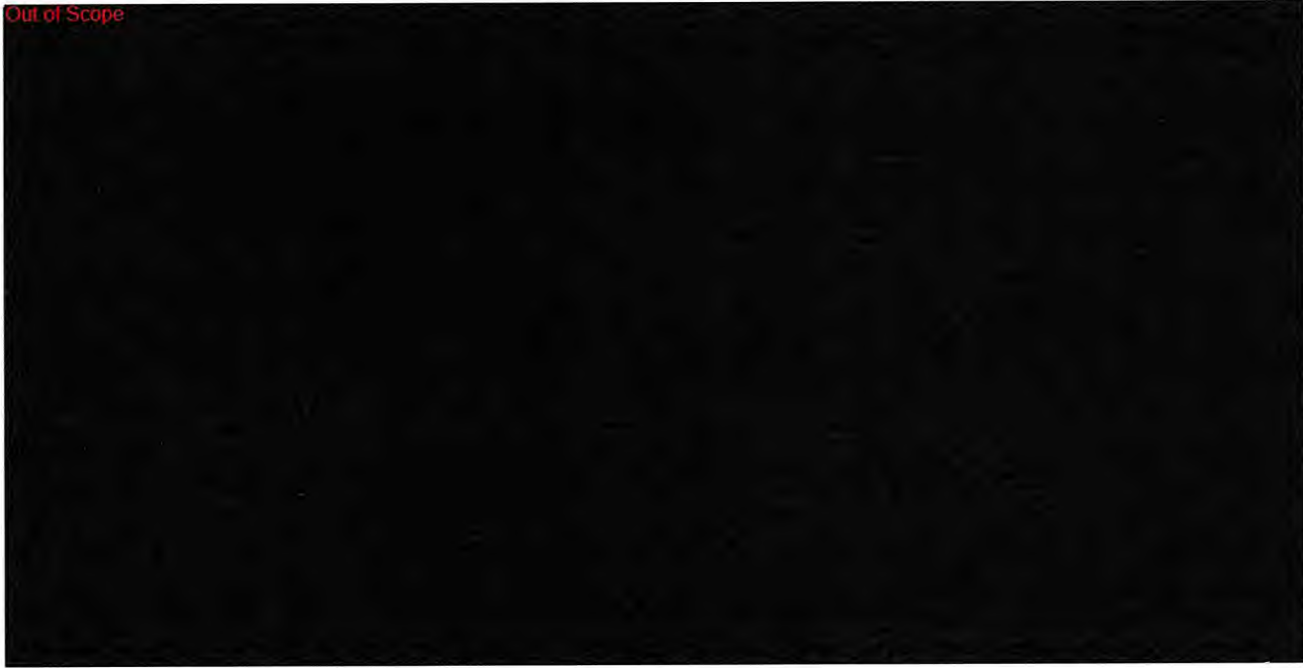
The staged access arrangements comprise the following:

- **Interim signalised intersection (existing):** this involved the provision of a four-way signalised intersection at the intersection of Port Wakefield Road, Angle Vale Road and Riverlea Boulevard, which was funded by the developer.
- **Upgraded signalised intersection:** the creation of 3,400 allotments in the Riverlea Development will trigger a further upgrade to increase capacity of the at-grade intersection. The agreement also includes a review of traffic generation and operation of the signals at the creation of 2,000 allotments to confirm the original 3,400 allotment trigger. This upgrading to the ultimate at-grade intersection is to be funded by the developer.

- **Grade Separation (Overpass) of the intersection:** an overpass, or grade separation of the intersection is required in the longer term should the development proceed as envisaged by the developer. Currently, no funding is committed to the provision of grade separation at this location given that the infrastructure is unlikely to be warranted in the shorter term.

The Department continues to improve the operation of the intersection which includes signal operation, the position of the flashing advanced warning signs and other traffic control devices. The Department will continue to monitor the intersection to ensure safe and efficient operations.

Out of Scope



Please be assured that the Department will continue to monitor the operation of these roads and, should the need for change become evident, the appropriate action will be taken.

I thank you for raising these matters with me.

Yours sincerely

Peter Malinauskas  
**PREMIER**

/ / 2023

The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP



Government  
of South Australia

23MIT8631  
23MIT8675

Minister for Infrastructure  
and Transport  
Minister for Energy and  
Mining

Level 14, 83 Pirie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1533  
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel 08 7133 1100

minister.koutsantonis@sa.gov.au

Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs

Dear **Clause 6 (1) -  
Personal Affairs**

I refer to your emails dated 4 July 2023 to the Premier, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, and myself about measures to enhance public transport in South Australia. As the matters you have raised fall within my portfolio responsibilities, the Premier has asked that I thank you for your correspondence and respond on his behalf.

The Member for Gibson, the Hon Sarah Andrews MP, has also written to me on your behalf in relation to the expansion of Adelaide's tram network, so I have copied her into this response for information.

Please be assured that the Malinauskas Labor Government is committed to collaborative, whole-of-government solutions to major strategic issues including transport infrastructure and network planning more broadly.

Further, we are committed to delivering a modern public transport system that is quick, efficient, safe, clean and environmentally friendly.

I'm pleased to advise that two new bus services, routes 402 and 450, commenced operation from 24 July 2023 to connect the new suburb of Riverlea with Virginia, Salisbury and Elizabeth.

These services are a welcome addition and form part of the larger picture to adequately connect new growth areas like those you have identified.

Our government also made an election commitment to undertake a Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills Transport Study (the Study), which will consider public transport solutions for Mount Barker, including the potential for a passenger train.

The Study commenced in September 2022 and has included a technical assessment of the transport network in the Adelaide Hills as well as stakeholder and community engagement.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) is currently analysing this information and finalising a 'what we heard' report. Further engagement is expected to take place later this year.

An Area Transport Study report is also being prepared that outlines key issues impacting the region, including potential focus areas for future transport improvements.



The Department recognises the value in providing a well-connected and efficient public transport network, and the importance it plays in providing a sustainable and accessible transport system, and is undertaking planning work to investigate transport issues related to future demand. Central to those investigations is consideration of public transport as a mode for mass passenger transport.

The state government recently announced the establishment of a Housing Infrastructure Planning and Development Unit to help residential development and coordinate infrastructure investment. The Department is working closely with that unit to ensure alignment between urban planning and transport provision for growth areas throughout the State.

The planning studies being undertaken, by necessity, have a strong focus on public transport provision for the reasons you point out. A reliable, safe and accessible public transport system is a highly efficient means to move people, reduce congestion, improve productivity and provide considerable environmental benefits.

The Department is also working to make public transport part of the solution to lower carbon emissions, which is a priority of our government.

The Department is investigating provision of zero emission bus and rail transport options. This includes developing a business case and transition plan to inform investment priorities to transform Adelaide Metro's bus fleet to zero-emission by 2050.

It is also undertaking a further a feasibility study examining how to transition Adelaide Metro's remaining diesel trains to zero-emissions technology.

The Department will continue to monitor available technologies in order to inform selection of the most appropriate solution to the delivery of passenger rail and bus services, and develop business cases for consideration by the South Australian and Australian governments.

With regard to the AdeLINK tram network extension project committed to by the previous Weatherill Labor Government, I can advise that as it was rejected by the South Australian public at the 2018 state election it is no longer a priority of our government.

Further information on public transport infrastructure initiatives can be found on the Department's Forward Works Plan available at [www.dit.sa.gov.au](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au).

Thank you once again for your interest in this important matter.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP**  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

11/9/2023

Cc: Sarah Andrews MP, Member for Gibson – [Gibson@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:Gibson@parliament.sa.gov.au)

**From:** DIT:Minister Koutsantonis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:26 AM  
**To:** Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs  
**Cc:** Gibson EO <gibson@parliament.sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** 23MIT8631 - 23MIT8675 - Response from the Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP

Good morning

Please find attached a response from the Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining.

Kind regards

**Office of the Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP**  
 Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
 Minister for Energy and Mining



**Government of South Australia**  
 Department for Infrastructure  
 and Transport

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 L14, 83 Pirie Street, ADELAIDE SA 5000 • GPO Box 1533, Adelaide SA 5001



The Department for Infrastructure and Transport acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Country throughout South Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land and waters. We pay our respects to the diversity of cultures, significance of contributions and to Elders past, present and emerging.

We are committed to creating a diverse and inclusive culture where everyone is valued and respected.

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**From:** Clause 6 (1) - Personal Affairs  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 4, 2023 10:16 AM  
**To:** DIT:Minister Koutsantonis <Minister.Koutsantonis@sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** 23MIT8631 Urgent Need for Enhanced Public Transport in South Australia

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Dear Minister Koutsantonis,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to bring your attention to the pressing matter of public transport infrastructure in South Australia and to seek your support in implementing measures to address these challenges. I also kindly request that you include Hon. Geoff Brock, the Minister for Regional Roads and Minister for Local Government, in this correspondence to ensure a comprehensive and collaborative approach to our state's transportation needs.

South Australia, with its diverse and growing population, requires a well-connected and efficient public transport system to enhance mobility, accessibility, and sustainability. As the Minister for

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Infrastructure and Transport, your leadership is instrumental in shaping the future of our state's transportation landscape.

Currently, Adelaide faces significant issues with its public transport network, resulting in inefficient travel times, excessive car usage, and mounting road congestion. It is essential that we address these challenges promptly to ensure a sustainable and livable future for our residents.

I urge you to prioritize the development and expansion of public transport, especially in areas experiencing rapid growth, such as the Riverlea Park project in Buckland Park. By integrating robust rail links and other public transport options into new urban developments, we can promote sustainable living and reduce our carbon footprint, while also improving residents' access to essential services and job opportunities.

Furthermore, the absence of a reliable rail link connecting Mount Barker to Adelaide is a matter of great concern. As the Hills region continues to grow, it is crucial to establish an efficient and frequent public transport connection to support the increasing number of commuters and reduce reliance on private vehicles. This initiative will not only alleviate road congestion but also foster economic growth and community development.

By working together, we have the opportunity to elevate South Australia as a leader in sustainable transportation solutions. I believe that under your guidance, we can initiate projects that not only benefit urban areas but also enhance connectivity and infrastructure in regional communities.

I kindly request that you collaborate with Hon. Geoff Brock, who has significant expertise in regional development and local government matters. Together, your combined efforts can ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to public transport improvements throughout South Australia.

In conclusion, I am hopeful that you will consider the urgency of this matter and take proactive steps towards improving our public transport infrastructure. Your commitment to this endeavor will leave a lasting legacy and positively impact the lives of countless South Australians.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. I look forward to witnessing a future where South Australia thrives with a well-connected and sustainable public transport network.

Sincerely,

Clause 6 (1) -  
Personal Affairs