3. Community and stakeholder engagement

3.1 Overview

The community and stakeholder engagement process for the project began in October 2010. Communication and consultation have been the two key community and stakeholder engagement processes for the project. Communication activities have primarily focused on delivering factual information about the project to all interested parties to increase awareness and understanding. Consultation activities have included discussions between the project team and interested parties to gain detailed information, a common understanding and input for assessing project impacts and route selection.

The community engagement process during the planning phase aimed to:

- raise awareness about the project and how it contributes to the overall strategic transport objectives for the state
- identify stakeholders and collect information on key issues, constraints and opportunities to progress development of the concept design
- promote different mechanisms and opportunities to gain access to project information, make enquiries and provide input
- obtain input and comments about the project through a planned and coordinated engagement approach.

3.2 Activities

A range of information and engagement methods have been used since the start of the planning phase in October 2010, for example:

- provision and promotion of a telephone information line (1300 626 097)
- development and distribution of a project brochure and fact sheets
- provision and promotion of a project email (dtei.southernexpressway@sa.gov.au.) and project website (www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au)
- community information days on 20 and 24 November 2010 at Noarlunga Centre and Marion Sports and Community Centre respectively
- distribution of 3,000 feedback forms to residents, businesses and other organisations located adjacent to the project area
- a workshop with representatives from the South Australian Government
- briefings with City of Marion, City of Onkaparinga and City of Mitcham
- a workshop with emergency services
- meetings with stakeholder and community groups.

3.3 Key issues raised during stakeholder consultation

A key outcome of the stakeholder engagement process was the effective working relationships established early in the planning phase of the project with residents adjacent to the existing Southern Expressway, key government agencies, various interest groups and local Members of Parliament. Most stakeholders reported that they valued this early opportunity to learn about the project and
provide input; however, some stakeholders, predominately landowners adjacent to the existing Southern Expressway, criticised the lack of detail on the location of the duplicated carriageway.

Priority issues identified during the engagement process are listed below.

3.3.1 Residents and landowners adjacent to the existing Southern Expressway

- Potential impact on property values.
- Land acquisition process.
- Potential impacts of noise, dust, blasting and vibration during construction and operation of the project.
- Location of new carriageway.
- Pedestrian and cycling paths.

3.3.2 Community groups

- Broad support for the project.
- Concern about potential impacts on waterways, fauna and vegetation corridors.
- Offered to assist with their area of expertise.

3.3.3 Members of Parliament

- Broad support for the project with further information and design options sought.
- Offered to assist with community engagement activities.
- Request for additional interchange access to the existing Southern Expressway.
- Request for upgrades to the local road network.
- Request for involvement of local industries during construction.

3.3.4 State Government agencies

- Agencies support the project.
- Need to ensure integration with other government strategies.
- Opportunities for public transport should be improved.

3.3.5 Local government

- Support for the project.
- Request for additional access to the existing Southern Expressway.
- Request for upgrades to the local road network.
- Retention of existing cycling and pedestrian paths is important.
- Request for use of local industries during construction.
- Concern about potential impacts on existing vegetation and waterways.

The information gained during the planning phase influenced development of the concept design, where feasible.
3.3.6 Community

More than 1,000 community contacts were made with the project team from the announcement of the project in February 2010 through to December 2010. Most feedback was positive and noted:

- travel time savings with the Southern Expressway being operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- no need to coordinate activities around a one-way reversible expressway
- improved road safety along the route.

The most common issues and concerns raised by the community were:

- potential impacts of noise, dust, blasting and/or vibration during construction and operation of the duplicated expressway
- access to and from the existing Southern Expressway
- land acquisition
- location of the new carriageway, i.e. western or eastern side of the existing carriageway.

The key issues raised and level of concern identified through the feedback forms are summarised in Figure 3.1.

![Figure 3.1 Key issues identified by the community](attachment:image.png)
3.4 Conclusion

The stakeholder engagement process to date has generated a substantial volume of information from stakeholders including residents adjacent to the existing carriageway, government agencies, interest groups, motorists and local Members of Parliament.

Overall, most stakeholders were supportive of the project and indicated that it should have happened sooner. Information and further details on the location of the new carriageway were sought by many stakeholders.

Residents and landowners adjacent to the existing Southern Expressway were primarily concerned about impacts on property value, noise, vibration and pedestrian/cycling paths.

Further stakeholder engagement with the release of this report for comment will build on established relationships and seek input from stakeholders on the design.