

## Hon Corey Wingard MP Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

13 September 2021

### **School holiday rail closures to help bring Gawler Rail Electrification Project closer to completion**

Temporary full and partial closures of Adelaide Metro rail lines will be in place during the upcoming school holidays to allow for vital work on the \$715 million Gawler Rail Electrification Project.

While a full network closure was previously announced for October, the work schedule has been revised to minimise disruption for passengers.

As previously flagged, the closures are required to enable overhead wiring works in the Adelaide Rail Yard that cannot be safely undertaken with trains operating.

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Corey Wingard said these closures would bring the Gawler rail line closer to delivering faster, cleaner and more reliable services through Adelaide from Gawler to Seaford.

“We inherited a very poorly planned project because the former Labor government signed the contract with only 5% design work complete which is just ludicrous.

“It’s terrible that the people of the north have been forced to wait so long for an electrified train line but we are focused on getting it done and open as quickly as possible.

“The project has pushed on despite delays caused by the closure of local steel supplier SA Structural and COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, and is moving towards completion in early 2022,” he said.

“We had previously announced a full network closure in October however the schedule has been altered to minimise disruption and now the main impacts will only be on weekends and won’t include all the train lines being closed at the same time.

“These line closures will be inconvenient, but they are necessary to enable important works that cannot be safely undertaken with trains operating in the rail corridor.

“The works have been scheduled during the school holidays to minimise the impact on passengers, but they will still be frustrating. I thank all train commuters for their patience during these required closures.

“The project is supporting 535 jobs and, once complete, the electrified line will support increased capacity and future growth along the rail corridor and in northern Adelaide.”

More information on these rail closures and the substitute buses is available at [www.adelaidemetro.com.au/railclosures](http://www.adelaidemetro.com.au/railclosures).

More information on the project is available at [www.dit.sa.gov.au/grep](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/grep).

As previously announced, the full closure of the Gawler rail line will remain in place until early 2022.