



Paul Fletcher

Minister for Urban Infrastructure



Government
of South Australia

Stephen Mullighan

SA Transport and Infrastructure Minister

Joint Media Statement

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Local industry, jobs benefit from concrete Northern Connector

The \$985 million project Northern Connector project will be South Australia's first major concrete road, leading to more local jobs and work for local businesses.

Federal Minister for Urban Infrastructure Paul Fletcher said the plain concrete pavement proposed by major contractor Lendlease would also reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

"The paved concrete pavement solution will be applied to approximately 13km of the 15.5km Northern Connector alignment, excluding the 4 interchanges which will be asphalt," Mr Fletcher said.

"The initial capital cost is marginally higher than an asphalt road but the benefits in terms of increased local participation and ongoing savings are well worth it.

"It's estimated building a concrete pavement will contribute another \$11 million to the local industry and support more than 40 extra jobs."

South Australian Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan said local content into the construction of a concrete road was estimated to be almost 90%.

"It's estimated an extra 175,000 cubic metres of concrete would be required for the road pavement as well as an extra 44,000 tonnes of cement, all of which will come from local suppliers," Mr Mullighan said.

"A concrete finish is expected to almost halve the ongoing maintenance costs of the road, with construction of the road pavement expected to begin in the second half of next year. In addition, concrete pavements provide savings for the running costs of heavy vehicles, such as fuel.

"The low-noise diamond grooving finish is durable and safe and is also expected to improve noise abatement and ride quality."

The announcement followed the recent completion of \$3.4 million of early works at Kings and Bolivar roads in Paralowie.

The new roundabout and realignment has improved safety at the known blackspot, which will be an important feeder route for the Northern Connector due to its proximity to the Bolivar Road interchange.

Media Contacts

For Mr Fletcher:

Andrew Blow

0411 403 937

For Mr Mullighan:

Rebecca Brice

0427 695 927

“The project was used as a ‘live’ construction training site as part of the State Government’s WorkReady program with 13 trainees involved in the program gained full-time employment, with two employed full-time on the Kings and Bolivar roads upgrade,” Mr Mullighan said.

“In all, WorkReady trainees undertook approximately 1,200 onsite hours of work on the project.”

Once major works start later this year, the Northern Connector will support an estimated 480 jobs a year during construction, with at least 50% of all jobs to be filled by northern suburbs residents.

Already seven former Holden and auto industry workers are among the 70 people working on site.

Craig Laslett, the Managing Director for Lendlease’s Engineering business, said the company was looking forward to working with the Australian and South Australian governments to maximise local benefits from the project.

“We are committed to maximising opportunities for local participation at every step of the Northern Connector Project,” Mr Laslett said.

“Not only does the concrete pavement maximise economic benefits for South Australia now, but provides a high quality, value for money road that will reduce ongoing maintenance costs in the future.”

Cement, Concrete and Aggregates Australia State Director Todd Hacking said taxpayers will receive value for money, through a durable, sustainable pavement and will experience a superior ride quality.

“CCAA predicts this will be the first of many new concrete roads in South Australia as the economic, environmental and social benefits are realised.”

On weekdays more than 52,000 vehicles are expected to use the six-lane, 15.5 kilometre link between the Northern Expressway, the South Road Superway and the Port River Expressway.

Further information can be found at the [Northern Connector](#) website.