

News release - Stephen Mullighan

Lendlease exceeding expectations with women working on Northern Connector Project

Stephen Mullighan

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Women are being employed at almost twice the national rate on the \$985 million Northern Connector Project, which continues to set new standards for recruitment and local participation.

More than 21% of positions across a range of roles - such as civil engineering, plant operation, safety, environment and administration - have so far been filled by women compared to the national average of 11.7% for the construction industry.

Five women are among 11 engineers recruited in the project's first graduate intake for 2017.

As major construction ramps up, 117 people have been employed by the head contractor Lendlease, with 98 positions filled through NorthHub - a one-stop on-site jobs, education and training centre created specifically for the project.

To date, approximately 94% of all on-site labour hours are being completed by South Australian residents with approximately 53% coming from the northern suburbs.

More than a third of staff are from key target groups including local people with barriers to employment, displaced automotive workers, Aboriginal people and apprentices and trainees, and investment in upskilling and training.

The Northern Connector is expected to support approximately 480 jobs a year during construction, with more jobs becoming available as the works program increases.

Background

The Northern Connector will be a six-lane, 15.5 kilometre motorway providing a vital freight and commuter link between the Northern Expressway, South Road Superway and Port River Expressway.

The project is exceeding local participation requirements including:

- At least 90% of all on-site labour hours to be undertaken by South Australians.
- At least 50% of all jobs to be filled by northern suburbs residents.
- At least 20 % of all on-site labour hours to be undertaken by trainees and apprentices, Aboriginal workers and people facing barriers to employment.

The Australian Government is committing \$788 million to the project, with \$197 million from the South Australian Government. The project is scheduled for completion in December 2019.

More information on the project is available at the Northern Connector [website](#) and the NorthHub [website](#).

Quotes attributable to Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan

On International Women's Day, it's a pleasure to meet some of the women who have been recruited to work in this typically male-dominated industry.

Lendlease is an industry leader in its commitment to both meet and exceed benchmarks for local employees and industry participation in the Northern Connector project, which is still in the early stages of major construction.

As a Government we want to make sure we use our major public infrastructure projects to employ locals, particularly people who may face barriers to employment.

The Office of the Industry Advocate plays a vital role in working with major contractors to ensure these expectations are being met and Lendlease's efforts on the Northern Connector Project are a clear example of the success of this approach.

Quotes attributable to Status of Women Minister Zoe Bettison

It is critical that we draw on South Australia's talent pool for major projects such as the Northern Connector and that means growing and harnessing female talent in industries such as construction.

Improving the gender balance in the construction industry isn't going to happen straight away. It will only occur through a targeted focus and initiatives like the NorthHub.

Quotes attributable to Lendlease Project Director Danny Parkinson

The Northern Connector project team is passionate about diversity and attracting the best talent available.

As construction ramps up, we want to ensure all South Australians benefit from the 480 jobs a year the project is expected to deliver during construction.

Quotes attributable to Northern Connector Plant Operator Mae Griffiths

Construction is a great industry to work in and it's important we change the culture and perception of the industry so we attract and retain more women.

I've learned a really valuable skill set and in years to come when this project and others I have worked on are finished, I will be able to see my contribution to Australia's infrastructure.