



# North-South Corridor Northern Connector Project

Community Update – October 2020



## Welcome to your new Northern Connector

South Australia's first major concrete road was opened to traffic in March 2020. The \$867 million-dollar Northern Connector is a six-lane, 110km/h motorway carrying approximately 50,000 vehicles per day. Jointly funded by the Australian and South Australian Governments, the new motorway has four major interchanges, an Intelligent Transport System and a new shared use pedestrian and bike path. It provides a 15.5km link between the Northern Expressway, South Road Superway, Port River Expressway and Port Wakefield Road, making it a key link in the state's North-South Corridor.

The project created an average of 480 jobs each year during construction, proudly exceeding workforce targets with South Australians making up 97% of the total workforce. Over 30% of the workforce on the Northern Connector Project was made up of local people facing barriers to employment, ex-automotive industry workers, trainees, cadets and apprentices, exceeding expectations for each of these groups. Furthermore, over 10% of the workforce was made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people making the Northern Connector Project a leader in industry standards.



Australian Government

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Government of South Australia

Department for Infrastructure  
and Transport

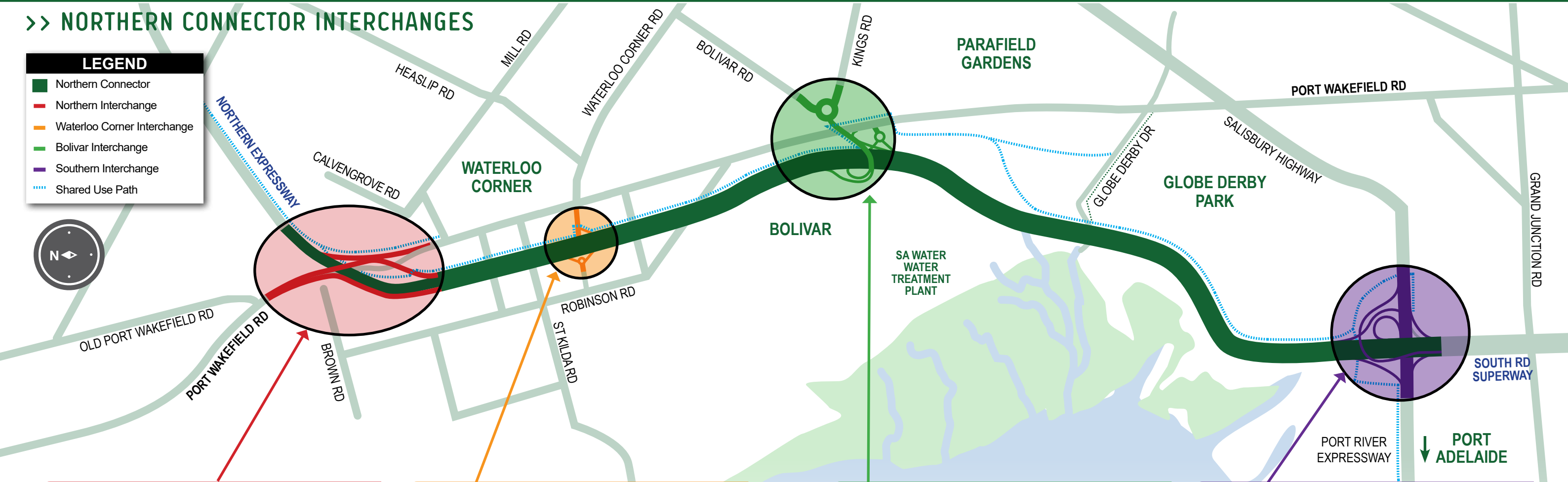





>> NORTHERN CONNECTOR INTERCHANGES

**LEGEND**


- Northern Connector
- Northern Interchange
- Waterloo Corner Interchange
- Bolivar Interchange
- Southern Interchange
- Shared Use Path





**FAST FACT**

- The on-site concrete batch plant produced the full 175,000m3 of concrete pavement required for the new motorway.
- Approximately 30,000 trucks were loaded with concrete and up to 320 loads were completed per day.
- 97% of the project workforce were from South Australia and 52% were from Northern Adelaide.
- SA businesses were awarded approximately 91% of all works contracts on the project.
- 10% of all on site work was undertaken by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.
- 480 full-time equivalent jobs were created each year during construction.



**FAST FACT**

- Over 1 million plants and trees have been planted across the project.
- The project has received an 'Excellent' rating from the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia.
- Approximately 650 people were employed and on site at the peak of construction.
- 628 precast bridge beams were manufactured locally and installed on the project.
- Approximately 400,000 kL of potable water was saved through several onsite initiatives such as the capture and reuse of site runoff and the recycling of concrete wash out water.
- More than 95% of all waste was recycled with 5,000 tonnes diverted from landfill.





## Supporting local businesses, industry and jobs

Supporting local industry, businesses and creating jobs was a key focus in the delivery of the Northern Connector Project. As part of the Industry Participation Strategy, the project was set a challenge to achieve over 90 percent investment back into the South Australian economy.

Concrete and steel were the two major components of the build and local companies were engaged to maximise reinvestment back into South Australia. Adelaide Brighton and Southern Quarries and Direct Mix provided the materials required for the 175,000 cubic metres of concrete that was used for the new pavement of the motorway. The project set a target to achieve 6500 tonnes of Whyalla Steel, through InfraBuild (formerly OneSteel) to maximise local investment in the state. In late 2019, the target was surpassed with a total of 6750 tonnes of steel used on the project. The project was also proudly supported by local Industry Partners, Catcon and LR&M Constructions, who played a key part in delivering the three of the major interchanges and sections of the motorway including earthworks, drainage and bridge structures.

The project reached a total of 91% (almost \$400 million) reinvestment back into South Australia. The new motorway delivered not only value for money, but strong investment and support for the state and local businesses.

## Industry leaders in Aboriginal employment

Delivery of the Northern Connector set new industry records for Aboriginal employment, with over 10% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce participation throughout the project. The Northern Connector also successfully overachieved in its investment with Aboriginal owned businesses, investing approximately \$13 million in goods and services. Aboriginal owned business, RAW Recruitment and Services (RAW), played an integral role in the delivery of the Northern Connector. RAW specialises in providing employment opportunities for Aboriginal jobseekers to become workforce participants, enabling stronger economic and social participation.

During the delivery of the project, RAW provided labour hire, traffic management and expanded its services by establishing and staffing a purpose built, on-site full-time café providing daily catering services for the entire project team. Furthermore, RAW recently established a civil construction team to complete a component of the Shared Use Path and numerous finishing works, allowing RAW the opportunity to break into the civil construction market as a contractor. These achievements have been proudly supported by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and Lendlease Engineering.

## Protecting wildlife habitats during a challenging bridge construction

Protecting the local fauna and flora was a critical focus when constructing the southern section of the motorway over salt fields, wetlands and mangroves. The wetlands and mangroves are home to the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary and the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, creating a significant ecosystem in Adelaide's north.

To enable the construction of the 400 metre long bridge over North Arm Creek, the team were able to limit vegetation impacts by adjusting the design of the bridge to allow construction to be undertaken from within the permanent bridge footprint. Furthermore, the project team built additional inlet and outlet drainage to enable intertidal wetlands, mitigating ecological impacts during construction of the bridge. The additional wetland and mangrove offset ensured that there has been no net loss due to the bridge construction, supporting the local habitat and rejuvenation of the mangroves.

## Repatriation Ceremony with Kaurna Nation

On 3 March 2020, Lendlease, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, SA Housing Authority and the Kaurna Nation collaborated with RAW Recruitment and Services to hold a Repatriation Ceremony as part of the completion of the Northern Connector Project. Several Ancestral peoples remains on Kaurna land were discovered during construction activities across various projects managed by the Department including the Northern Connector which crosses the Northern Adelaide Plains.

The Ancestral remains were returned to country for reburial where Jack Bucksin and Allan Sumner, proud Kaurna and Narungga men, performed a welcome to country before the Department Chief Executive, Tony Braxton-Smith, SA Housing Authority Chief Executive, Michael Buchan and respected Kaurna and Narungga Elder, Jeffrey Newchurch took to the stage. Following the formalities, a traditional smoking ceremony and song was performed by Kaurna representatives who returned the remains to country before guests were welcomed to pay their respects. The ceremony provided members of Kaurna, the project team and special guests to come together and pay their respect to Kaurna ancestors past and present and acknowledge the Aboriginal connection to land while honouring the mutual collaboration formed between Lendlease, the Department and Kaurna on the Northern Connector Project.





## Northern Connector community open day

In February 2020, the Northern Connector Project hosted a community open day to showcase South Australia's first major concrete road. Around 5,000 people attended the event which was held at the Northern Connector site compound in Waterloo Corner. Construction equipment that was utilised on the job was on display throughout the day along with a range of activities and catering free for all to enjoy.

Bus tours hosted by project staff ran for the duration of the day with around 1,400 people taking up the opportunity to drive along the new motorway before it officially opened to the public in March 2020. A virtual reality experience also allowed members of the community to gain a first-hand understanding of the how the new motorway was constructed and the positive impact it will have on travel-times and commuter safety.

## Shared Use Path "Tapa Martinthi Yala"

The Tapa Martinthi Yala is a new shared use pedestrian and bike path that was constructed as part of the Northern Connector Project. The name Tapa Martinthi Yala means "pathway to embrace today" in the Aboriginal Kaurna language and spans the entire length of the new Northern Connector.

The Tapa Martinthi Yala connects into the existing Stuart O'Grady bikeway, which runs alongside the Northern Expressway to Gawler. The new Port River Bikeway was also delivered as part of the project interconnecting into the Gawler Greenway. The Tapa Martinthi Yala, the Port River Bikeway and the Gawler Greenway create approximately 43km of continuous paths from Gawler to Port Adelaide for pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy.