

STATE BUDGET 2020-21

PREMIER HON STEVEN MARSHALL MP
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
HON COREY WINGARD MP
MEDIA RELEASE

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Tunnel vision becomes reality: SA's biggest job-creating infrastructure project underway

The largest ever job-creating infrastructure project in South Australia's history is underway following commitment from the Marshall and Morrison Governments to deliver the final section of the North-South Corridor.

The 10.5 kilometre stretch between River Torrens to Darlington will be transformed over the next decade, creating up to **4,000 jobs**.

The project will unlock Adelaide's traffic network by;

- Delivering a 78km non-stop, free-flowing motorway from Gawler to Old Noarlunga
- Allowing motorists to bypass 21 sets of traffic lights
- Saving up to 24 minutes' travel time from River Torrens to Darlington
- Removing 110,000 thousand vehicles from South Road per day
- Improving east-west connectivity
- Saving the Thebarton Theatre and Queen of Angels Church
- Saving more homes and businesses

The project will be delivered in two stages:

- Stage One (Southern Tunnel) – approximately 6km of motorway including more than 4km of tunnel between Anzac Highway to Darlington
- Stage Two (Airport Link and Northern Tunnel) – an at-surface motorway and a second tunnel, connecting River Torrens to Anzac Highway

Premier Steven Marshall has predicted the North South Corridor will be one of the most important infrastructure projects ever delivered for our State and will revolutionise the way we travel.

"This project is a generational game changer for South Australian motorists – and the largest delivered in over a century," said Premier Steven Marshall.

"The benefits of our decision will be felt for generations, with the project alone estimated to create up to 4,000 jobs, slash travel time by 24 minutes and connect the north and the south of our state with a 78km non-stop motorway."

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Corey Wingard said progressing the hybrid+ solution means we can maximise the project's benefits and deliver the best outcome for all South Australians.

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“After the previous Labor government put this project and tunnels in the too-hard basket, we’ve rolled up our sleeves and done the work to get it back on track,” Minister Wingard said.

“The tunnelling solution we’ve come up with will minimise community impact, improve east-west connectivity, increase overall network capacity to reduce congestion, and deliver greater safety benefits.

“With the hybrid+ solution we can protect iconic community and heritage assets including the Thebarton Theatre, Hindmarsh Cemetery, Hoffman Brick Kiln and Queen of Angels Church, to name a few.”

The hybrid+ solution also means hundreds fewer homes and businesses will be impacted with modelling suggesting around 390 properties will need to be acquired. In comparison, the open-motorway option would have required close to 900 homes and businesses to be demolished.

Current estimates put the project cost at \$8.9 billion. The final cost estimate will be determined later next year after a detailed business case and final assurances by Infrastructure Australia and Infrastructure South Australia.

The Commonwealth Government has agreed to partner with the State Government on this project, committing to its share of \$5.4 billion of costs at this time.

Work on the project is already underway with geotechnical works being carried out at dozens of locations along the corridor.

The Marshall Liberal Government will continue getting on with this significant project with a suite of works throughout 2021 including phase two of geotechnical ground investigations, finalisation of the detailed design and compulsory land acquisition.

Construction is to be completed by 2030.