

Hon Stephen Mullighan MP Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

Saturday, 15 October, 2016

Works to commence on new Outer Harbor rail bridge for Torrens to Torrens project

Construction of a new Outer Harbor rail overpass as part of the Torrens Road to River Torrens North-South Corridor Project has begun with piling and retaining wall works.

The overpass will separate Outer Harbor and Grange trains from vehicle traffic on South Road, improving safety and travel times for motorists.

A pre-cast concrete retaining wall on the eastern and western sides of South Road is being constructed in preparation for the bridge installation in January 2017.

Approximately 270 tonnes of Arrium steel is being used in the pile reinforcement, rail tracks and concrete deck reinforcement.

South Australian contractor Samaras Group is fabricating the 720-tonne bridge structure.

The rail overpass will also feature a shared cycling and pedestrian path, completing a key link in the Outer Harbor Greenway.

Background

More than 110 tonnes of steel billet from Arrium in Whyalla is being used for the pile reinforcement and each pile is two metres in diameter.

Another 70 tonnes of steel from Whyalla will be used for the rail tracks and 90 tonnes for the concrete deck reinforcement.

The fabrication works for the main bridge structure will provide work for more than 20 local employees at Samaras Group, while up to 118 workers will be on site, and many more off site, when the bridge structure is installed in January 2017.

The bridge structure will be craned into position between 2 to 22 January 2017, during which time services on the Outer Harbor line will be suspended.

During these crane works road users can expect changed traffic conditions, with temporary traffic arrangements and signage in place to alert motorists of alternate traffic routes to minimise delays, where possible.

The rail line closure has been timed to coincide with the lowest patronage period of the year and substitute buses will be provided.

The closure has also been timed to coincide with other works, including the \$238 million Torrens Rail Junction project to separate passenger rail, freight rail and road traffic, and a \$4 million upgrade to the Port River rail bridge.

This work is part of the \$896 million Torrens to Torrens Project, which has successfully awarded more than \$134 million and more than 96% of contracts to companies providing economic benefits to South Australia.

The \$896 million Torrens Road to River Torrens Project is being jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments on a 50:50 basis.

More information is available at the [T2T Alliance](#) website.

Quotes attributable to Transport and Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan

More than 150 Grange and Outer Harbor train services pass through the level crossing at South Road every weekday, disrupting the flow of traffic on this major arterial road.

Separating this rail line from vehicle traffic will help to substantially improve travel times for commuters, freight and transport vehicles and all road users who navigate this part of Adelaide's western suburbs every day.

As the Government's draft Rail Crossing Safety Strategy notes, queuing across level crossings, inattention and impatience pose some of the greatest dangers around level crossings.

Removing the source of conflict by separating the rail line from other road and pedestrian traffic will significantly improve safety.

Once complete, the rail overpass will provide better safety and connectivity for the community and increase efficiencies for public transport services and road users.

By using prefabricated bridge sections and installing them in three separate sections, the T2T Alliance has been able to minimise disruption to services on the Outer Harbor and Grange lines.

By taking advantage of the summer holiday period any disruptions will occur during the quietest time of the year for rail services, and we are able to use this time to complete other major works along this important public transport corridor.

Media Contact: Rebecca Brice 0427 695 927