



SOUTH ROAD FULL UPGRADE DOOMED WITHOUT FURTHER GOVERNMENT FUNDING COMMITMENTS

The multi-billion dollar full upgrade of South Road – Adelaide’s crucial north-south road freight corridor – appears doomed after federal and state funding dries up in 2018, one of South Australia’s most influential industry lobby groups warned today.

The powerful Civil Contractors Federation of South Australia (CCF) today shed serious doubt on the project’s long term viability beyond the \$2.5 billion in construction works currently being undertaken at the Darlington Interchange, the Torrens to Torrens precinct and the Northern Connector, in Adelaide’s northern suburbs.

The CCF revealed today there is no forward budget committed for the project’s continuation once all current federal and state government funding is exhausted within two years.

CCF Chief Executive Officer, Mr Phil Sutherland, said urgent design work necessary for planning to commence on the yet- to-be-touched sections could not commence as funding for the upgrade up until 2018 had already been assigned.

“We are being told by people involved in the upgrade that there is a very real possibility the sections currently the subject of construction activity (Darlington Interchange, Torrens to Torrens, and Northern Connector) are likely to be the only improvements for many years unless the federal and state governments come to the party as a matter of urgency,” Mr Sutherland said.

“There is a genuine fear that the full South Road upgrade will end up like similar projects overseas where the money has run out resulting in road infrastructure - including tunnels and freeways - going nowhere, and with fly-overs just dangling in the air,” he said.

“The existing pool of money for the upgrade of the crucial north-south corridor will be exhausted by 2018.

“Unless money is urgently earmarked for this crucial piece of road infrastructure, all of the work will come to a standstill and Adelaide will be left with a road that simply shunts congestion up and down the road. That’s not a freeway.

“Road planning and design for complex developments require long lead times. Without a budget commitment from the Federal and State governments, this critical planning and design work can’t commence.

“Putting aside the road works associated with the sections currently being upgraded, South Road remains a mess.

“There are a number of sections of South Road that are complete bottlenecks for most of the day. Travel times are appalling.”

As an example, Mr Sutherland cited the section of South Road from Daws Road to Anzac Highway where part of the road corridor “turns into a carpark” between 7am and 9.30am and again from 4 to 6pm each week day.

He said it was only three years ago that then Prime Minister Tony Abbot pledged to upgrade South Road “within a decade”.



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Despite this, Mr Sutherland claims Infrastructure Australia does not regard the upgrade as a high priority project – meaning the Federal Government is unlikely to fast-track any funding.

The CCF has identified three sections of the South Road upgrade that required urgent funding commitments to allow lead up work to commence immediately.

They are:

- Anzac Highway to Darlington – eight kilometres of road which has no current funding or “shovel ready” plans. Total cost \$2.1 billion
- River Torrens to Anzac Highway – seven kilometres with no current funding or “shovel ready plans”. Total cost \$2.6 billion, and;
- Regency Road to Torrens Road - eight kilometres of road which has no current funding or “shovel ready” plans. Total cost \$760 million.

“We are calling on the Federal and State governments to get their heads together and come to a funding agreement that will see the South Road upgrade completed along its full length in a timely manner,” Mr Sutherland said.

“South Australians have waited long enough for a safe, seamless and efficient road transport corridor across the city from south to north,” he said.

“It beggars belief that we are going to end up with a hotch potch of a road characterized by good bits and bad bits along the road corridor.

“A first world economy deserves a high standard of road infrastructure.

“When you consider the long lead times in the planning for the new road and the time it will take to undertake the substantial construction works, we will be pushing it to complete the road within the time frame promised by Mr Abbott.

“The Federal Government needs to step up and support the SA Government with this. The investment required is not within the capacity of the State Government.

“South Australians pay Federal taxes and they deserve better roads. South Australia should not be the poor relation when it comes to Federal road funding.”

**Media contact:
Sean Whittington
Field Public Relations
(08) 8234 9555 / (0412) 591 520**



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ABOUT THE CIVIL CONTRACTORS FEDERATION:

The Civil Contractors Federation (South Australian Branch) has 500 company members who in turn employ up to 20,000 South Australians. Members are involved in a variety of projects and activities (from small to very large) including the development and maintenance of civil or “horizontal” infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sewer, water and drainage pipelines, dams, wharves, commercial and housing land development.

Members are also involved in the preparatory works for mining and other resource developments.

South Australia’s prosperity is dependent upon functional, efficient and cost effective civil infrastructure. Healthy, well-functioning and productive countries depend on infrastructure that civil contractors construct and maintain.

Civil contractors play a prime role in working in working with both public sector and private sector clients in infrastructure delivery. This is the business of civil construction which has historically played a pivotal role in the growth and prosperity of South Australia.

The CCF SA: the peak industry association for the civil contracting sector | influencing government policy and regulation | lobbying and advocating for civil contracting companies | maintaining networks of influential government, media and community contacts | providing information of relevance to civil contracting companies and the community | facilitating opportunities for civil contracting companies to be consulted on matters of importance | hosting social and networking opportunities for civil contractors | promoting the civil contracting sector | delivering civil training programs and courses | providing technical and specialist advisory services to civil contractors | progressing strategies designed to achieve and maintain a safe, sustainable and profitable civil contracting sector.