

# Gawler Rail Electrification Project

## Why is there a need to electrify the rail network?

The electrification of the Gawler rail line forms part of the State Government's ongoing investment in upgrading our public transport system to deliver cleaner, safer and more reliable rail services. The electrified Gawler rail line will be a modern, comfortable, environmentally friendly and efficient train service.

Once complete, the electrified line will support increased capacity and future growth for development along the rail corridor.

## What works are required within the Town of Gawler?

Installing the electrical infrastructure and improving safety are the key first steps in modernising the Gawler rail line.

These works include:

- installation of the 25kV overhead wiring system including masts and gantries;
- construction of a Combined Services Trench for the installation of new fibre optic communications cabling;
- installation of a new signalling system;
- service relocations;
- fencing of the rail corridor for improved safety; and
- some vegetation/tree trimming and removals, with every effort made to minimise impacts.

The majority of works will occur within the existing rail corridor, however there may be some works that will require access to adjacent land to allow for construction and local traffic management.

## Will there be changes to passenger services as part of the construction program?

While every effort has been made to minimise disruption to stakeholders, planned construction works will require full and partial closures of some sections of the rail corridor until October 2021, weather permitting. For information on current work activities, please visit: [www.dit.sa.gov.au/grep](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/grep)

Substitute buses will be in place to accommodate commuters during these closures and Adelaide Metro will provide advance notification of any changes to passenger services, visit: <https://adelaidemetro.com.au/>

## Will there be night works during construction?

There will be night works at certain times as construction progresses, and advance notice will be provided to advise of when these works will occur. Every effort will be made to minimise disruption to residents and businesses.

If you would like to receive a SMS notification for when works are occurring at night in your area, including general Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) rail maintenance notifications, please register your details at [www.dit.sa.gov.au/worknotifications](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/worknotifications)

### For further information:

Call: 1300 080 834

Email: [dit.gawlerelectrification@sa.gov.au](mailto:dit.gawlerelectrification@sa.gov.au)

Visit: [www.dit.sa.gov.au/grep](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/grep)

## **Will vegetation and trees need to be removed as part of the electrification works?**

Management of vegetation is an integral part of the safe operation of an electrified rail network. Vegetation management will need to occur to ensure:

- vegetation does not encroach into the three (3) metre electrical clearance zone, to prevent contact with the electrical overhead wiring;
- safe construction and operation of a Common Services Trench to house the new signalling and communications systems; and
- the electrified area is fenced off to prevent intrusion.

The Project Team is working to minimise the impact on vegetation as much as practically possible through the detailed design phase. They are working closely with the relevant authorities, local councils and interested parties to minimise and manage impacts to vegetation, trees and wildlife habitats.

Local residents will be provided with further updates as the scope of the required vegetation management is further refined.

## **What are the next steps for King Street Bridge?**

Information drop-in sessions were held at Gawler Central Shopping Centre in December 2019 for the community to speak directly with the Project Team about the project and the replacement of King Street Bridge.

Following the sessions, the Project Team progressed the bridge design incorporating the feedback received from the sessions which included minimising impacts to the local community and improving local road integration.

An updated bridge design has been developed with initial feedback from the Town of Gawler Council and an independent Heritage Advisor. The Project Team are now seeking community feedback towards the proposed bridge design at drop-in sessions. See the attached invitation for location, date and times for the drop-in sessions. The Project Team is available to answer questions on the sessions via the contact details below.

## **Why can't electrification occur with the existing bridge in place?**

As part of the planning studies, many factors were considered which led to the findings, including:

- the existing height of the bridge does not have the required clearance for electrical wiring and infrastructure;
- lowering of the track was considered, but is not feasible if safe gradients are to be maintained at the Howard Street and Murray Street level crossings and the Gawler Central Railway Station platform;
- constructing a new road bridge which meets the required height clearance would result in a much higher road level than currently exists due to the extra weight reinforcement requirements;
- an increase in road height would impact surrounding properties (including several heritage listed properties) adjoining the bridge, as well as severing connections with Jerningham St and Bridge St North;
- the structural depth required for a pedestrian bridge is significantly less than required for a new road bridge, so street levels can be maintained while preserving community connectivity;
- decisions made now, such as replacing the road bridge with a pedestrian bridge, will not impact the ability to duplicate the Gawler rail line or limit options for development in the future;
- the current concrete bridge structure is end-of-life and regardless of electrification, would require a full re-build for it to be safely maintained as a vehicular bridge; and

- a pedestrian bridge will support the evolution of future growth and development plans, such as Concordia and the Gawler Central Rail Station precinct redevelopment, without a heavy increase in cost and impact on the King Street precinct.

### **Were local traffic movements considered as part of the planning studies?**

Yes. A full traffic impact study was undertaken by an independent traffic consultant.

The Town of Gawler Council also undertook their own independent study to verify the findings. This study investigated how the removal of vehicles from the existing King Street Bridge would impact traffic loads, parking in the immediate area and the likelihood for increased congestion around local streets in the residential area surrounding the King Street Bridge.

The findings determined that the broader network had sufficient capacity to handle an increase in traffic, due to the relatively low volume of vehicle traffic across the existing King Street Bridge during both peak and off-peak times.

### **How will local traffic be managed when vehicle access is removed from King Street Bridge?**

A series of local traffic treatments are being considered, which includes how traffic will be redistributed to avoid unwanted through traffic. This includes maintaining vehicle access from King Street to Bridge Street North. The final traffic management plan for the wider area is currently being determined in discussion with the Town of Gawler Council.

Traffic monitoring will be undertaken for a period of time following any changes to traffic movements to inform the effectiveness of the changes.

### **Will the new bridge be accessible for cyclist and disability access?**

Ensuring accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists and those with physical and mobility impairment has been a key objective for the revised bridge design and local street integration. Please contact the team to view the current pedestrian bridge design and provide your feedback.

### **How will construction for the project be managed?**

Construction works will be managed carefully and sensitively to minimise the potential impact to surrounding neighbours and businesses. Representatives from the Project Team will provide updates to neighbours and the broader community, on both the bridge works and on the broader rail electrification project.

### **Will there be new trains on the Gawler line?**


New electric trains are being procured which will enable a 15% increase in capacity, as well as reliability and safety improvements. The 12 new trains will be introduced in stages following completion of all the project works.

### **Will there be any station upgrades?**

Major upgrades to stations are not included within the project, minor works will occur at each station to ensure they are compatible with the electrified railway.

### **Will there be any disruption to road intersections along the corridor?**

In general, road level crossings will not be affected, however on some occasions in order to construct the works and commission the new signalling infrastructure some traffic restrictions may be required. During these times speed and lane restrictions may be required.



Restrictions will be advertised, and where required motorists advised to plan ahead, allow extra travel time and observe signage.

**When is project going to be completed? Why is it taking so long?**

Gawler Rail Electrification Project is a complex and significant project with multiple interfaces. Requiring the installation over 40kms of an entirely new signalling network and overhead wiring infrastructure from Adelaide to Gawler Railway Station.

The safety of our crew, trains and passengers remains our utmost priority.

Occupations of the line are necessary to deliver electrified services on the Gawler rail line and ultimately deliver a better rail network to our customers.

Works are progressing well, and we're anticipating completion at the end of 2021, weather permitting.

**What opportunities exist for the community to provide feedback towards the urban design elements of the new bridge?**

There will be opportunities for the community to provide input into the urban design elements of the new bridge and surrounds. Information about these opportunities will be provided in advance to the community.

**Who can I contact for more information?**

For project updates, details of community events or to speak with a member of the team, please contact:

**Phone:** 1300 080 834

**Email:** [dit.gawlerelectrification@sa.gov.au](mailto:dit.gawlerelectrification@sa.gov.au)

**Visit:** [www.dit.sa.gov.au/grep](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/grep)

