

# LINKING UP

DEVELOPER : Department for Infrastructure and Transport  
CONSTRUCTION VALUE : \$67.7 million



Gawler East Link Road provides flexibility for future growth, as well as allowing full development of the Gawler East area. The project creates direct access to Main North Road for local traffic without needing to travel through the Gawler Town Centre, reducing travel times, increasing safety and minimising vehicle emissions.

**The South Australian Government's Department for Infrastructure and Transport has completed another important project, the Gawler East Link Road (GELR).**

The road upgrades support economic activity in Gawler and enhance connectivity between current and future developments, commercial and school precincts, and supported approximately 110 jobs over the life of the project.

The \$67.7 million project connects residents of Gawler and the southern Barossa to Main North Road, eases traffic congestion in the town centre and gives local residents more direct access to Main North Road. The GELR project also provides the capacity to introduce new roads to increase connectivity to future developments including commercial and school precincts. The project features 5.5km of road in total, with 4.3km of new road alignment from Potts Road to Calton Road and a 1.2km upgrade to Potts Road.

"Initially, the project faced challenges over the precise alignment of the link road," said Department spokesperson Paul Kermode.

"We undertook extensive consultation with stakeholders, including local residents and businesses, as well as the Town of Gawler and Springwood developers to find the best solution."

The project works included:

- Construction of a new link road between Potts Road and Calton Road
- Upgrade and signalisation of the Main North Road intersection with Potts Road and Para Road
- Provision for future services infrastructure (new trunk sewer and water mains)
- Upgrade of the existing Potts Road, including road widening and formalised footpaths
- Construction of new roundabouts at the intersections of the new link road with Potts Road, Gawler-One Tree Road and Calton Road
- Construction of a new bridge over the South Para River
- Construction of a precast concrete arch structure to maintain a key environmental corridor for local fauna
- Installation of LED road lighting to save energy and improve night time visibility.



The precast concrete arch structure was constructed over the gully crossing along the Link Road alignment. This structure forms an important role in building the connection between Gawler-One Tree Hill Road and the South Para River, and will assist in maintaining a key environmental corridor for local fauna such as the Flinders Ranges Legless Worm-Lizard.

As the project was nearing completion, Kurna and Ngarrindjeri elders met with local students, from the Gawler and District College and Kurna Plains School, for a community tree planting event, hosted by RAW SA. A smoking ceremony was held before the trees were planted by the South Para River, next to the South Para Bridge section of the new Gawler East Link Road. The trees will help to revitalise local vegetation and wildlife habitat.

The main challenge of the project was related to scheduling works on Main North Road, which is one of the major roads from the north of Adelaide towards the CBD. Works were scheduled to avoid disruption on this major traffic route as much as possible.

"We had three weeks of night works with work zones shifting regularly to minimise disruption to the residents as much as possible," explained Paul. Other challenges involved maintaining a 10m environmental buffer at the site of the precast concrete arch structure and ensuring the road is future proofed for future planned developments both within Springwood and along the Gawler East Link Road alignment.

The Department sees this project as being crucial for the future of the town of Gawler, with significant safety benefits and amenity improvements for the main street of Gawler due to a reduction in traffic. "The State Government is embarking on a record infrastructure spend, and projects such as this which improve travel times and safety for South Australians are front and centre in that. We want people to get where they are going quickly and safely, so they can spend more time with their family and friends, rather than in traffic," said Paul.

*For more information contact The South Australian Department for Infrastructure and Transport, website [www.dit.sa.gov.au](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au)*





## SIGNS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Established in 1999, Sonnex is an Australian owned and operated engineering, sheetmetal and profile cutting company based in South Australia. At Gawler East Link Road Sonnex manufactured and installed the Karuna Signage on Kelly Circuit. The signage is part of a series of nine signs supplied and installed by Sonnex at sites around South Australia to acknowledge the original inhabitants of the land. Made of Corten, a material that rusts over time, the signs are reminiscent of the red earth of the Australian landscape.

“We were provided with architectural drawings and artwork files and we then used them to draft engineering and manufacturing drawings,” said Owner Director, Jano Tuchyna. “The process took around six weeks as we converted all the artwork to DXF files for our profile cutters and waited for approvals from the designers. As the signage was to be installed near a new sub-division, we needed approval from Bardavcol, the main construction company working there.”

“The design was quite detailed so the main challenge we faced was making sure the DXF files for profile cutting were accurate. We also made several small changes to the design including moving some holes around to make the columns easier to manufacture.”

“The job went smoothly. We have years of experience manufacturing a large number of signs and artwork around South Australia and we know how to address any potential issues early,” said Jano. Installation for the Karuna signs started in early September and took around two weeks.

Sonnex has a solid background of working with major Australian and international companies. Once a top tier supplier to

the GMH Holden factory, Sonnex has successfully diversified to provide expert engineering and fabrication services that include laser and drill plasma cutting, folding and bending, tapping, bevelling and rolling. Sonnex’s range of services and comprehensive production facilities enable them to supply high quality structural and architectural metalwork.

“The total combined workshop space for plate processing, engineering and paint is 3,400m<sup>2</sup>. All three of our workshops are located in Elizabeth South and we employ 34 people. Our Amada laser cutters, press brakes and the operators who run these machines every day, create excellent results,” added Jano.

Sonnex’s background with major Australian and international companies has given them experience across a board range of industry sectors including transportation, automotive, mining, manufacturing, construction, rail and power generation.

“Most of our work is local to South Australia, and we do regularly take on interstate projects, but they are only a small portion of the total work we produce. Sonnex do a variety of things, we have a large plate processing workshop, a smaller engineering workshop and a dedicated paint shop,” explained Jano. “We carry out engineering and fabrication of architectural elements sheet metal cutting, plate processing and supply product to other businesses. Our services include installation, prototyping and onsite shutdown and maintenance services for other facilities. We also do a large amount of manufacturing for the concrete precast industry.”

Sonnex has been working with the SA Department of Transport and Infrastructure for a number of years. Previous projects include remediation works at Paringa Bridge, completed in June 2017 and at Munno Parra Train Station, completed in December 2008.

In 2017 the structural company building the O-Bahn extension footbridge needed a plate processing company who could deliver accurate parts on time. Sonnex were contracted to fabricate and supply the Corten profiles for the build.

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## FITTING THE FORM

**F17 Formwork is a formwork, steel fixing and concreting contractor involved in civil and commercial projects across South Australia.** The Gawler East Link Road is one of many jobs F17 Formwork has completed for South Australia's Department of Transport and Infrastructure.

F17 Formwork started onsite work at Gawler in April 2019 providing a package that comprised the formwork, steel fixing and placing of concrete to the bridge over the South Para River. The concrete elements constructed included the four piers, two cross heads, two abutments, bridge deck, and the two approach slabs. With a team of 25 the job was completed within 13 months.

"The location for the job was a challenge. We were working in a creek bed really and it was often wet and windy," said Managing Director Adrian Rosa. "We prefabricated reinforcing for the piers by welding cages together at a laydown yard about half a kilometre away. We then craned steel cages into position and that process took a lot of planning and engineering to complete safely. It was a busy site, we had to coordinate our works around the road building as well as the constructing of reinforced earth walls. We also assisted Bardavcol with the installation of the Super T beams."

"I established F17 Formwork two years ago when I took over TC Formwork as the owner retired. I maintained the employees and the clients and already we have completed some large scale and high profile projects. We are a highly skilled and experienced team and focus on interacting with our clients and building good relationships," added Adrian.



A recent successfully completed project for F17 Formwork includes the formwork construction at the O-Bahn Park 'n' Ride carpark in Paradise, suburban Adelaide, completed in early 2020.

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