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Issue no. 1 — December 2025

The Inside Scoop

→ News from a non-stop South Road

MEET THE MEGA MACHINES

Gearing up to drive South Road into the future



→ Colossal cargo has arrived in Adelaide, with the first pieces of the River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project's Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) now on site at the Project's Southern Precinct in Clovelly Park.

The special delivery marks a major milestone in the journey to build a non-stop South Road, with the cutterhead alone, the front rotating section that excavates soil and rock, spanning 15 metres in diameter and weighing about 300 tonnes.

The massive machinery arrived under night skies, travelling 25 kilometres from Port Adelaide in a carefully configured overnight convoy. The two-hour operation required progressive road closures, including the temporary removal of nine sets of traffic lights.

Throughout the journey, locals took to the streets to catch a glimpse of the mega machine set to make history.

"I love a bit of infrastructure, so I just wanted to see the configuration of the trucks and size of the equipment coming through", said Alex Davis, who watched the convoy pass.

The cutterhead was delivered in five pieces, including the nine-metre-wide centrepiece, along with other key components like the tailskin. These are the first major parts to arrive, with more shipments to follow over the coming months.

The T2D Project will be the first in Australia to operate three large-scale TBMs concurrently. Once assembled, each machine will be 100 metres in length and weigh 3,500 tonnes, making these the largest pieces of construction equipment ever used in South Australia.

Two machines will launch from Clovelly Park to excavate the twin 4.5 kilometre Southern Tunnels, while a third will begin tunnelling from Richmond to construct the 2.2 kilometre Northern Tunnels.

The TBMs were purchased from world-leading tunnelling manufacturer Herrenknecht and must undergo rigorous Factory Acceptance Testing overseas before making their journey to South Australia, where they will be reassembled and commissioned ahead of tunnelling works starting in the second half of 2026.

But before these machines can make history, something special must happen first.

Find out what that is on page 3.



Scan the QR code to watch the journey from port to precinct

T2D →
TORRENS TO
DARLINGTON



Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



Government
of South Australia
Department for Infrastructure
and Transport

SA IS
BUILDING
→

Delivered by
TORRENS TO
DARLINGTON
ALLIANCE

EDITORIAL

➔ **The River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project is the largest infrastructure project in South Australia's history, and one that will change how we move around our city.**



Creating a non-stop South Road, the T2D Project will improve travel times by up to 40 minutes during peak hour, unlock the full potential of the North-South Corridor, and reduce congestion on surrounding major roads, including Marion Road, Unley Road and Goodwood Road. It will improve east-west connectivity providing better access to the airport, the western suburbs, Port Adelaide and the CBD.

The Project isn't just about bitumen and big machinery. At its core, it's about people. It's about how we stay connected — to family, to work and the communities that make South Australia such an amazing place to live and work in. It's about getting home safer, faster and with less stress at the end of the day.

Now, with preparations for main construction works well underway, we're driving real progress. Along the journey we're creating thousands of jobs for South Australians, backing local businesses and helping strengthen our economy.

These opportunities go beyond the here and now. They help build skills, careers and futures for people right across our State.

This newspaper has been created to keep you informed about the Project, its progress and the people behind it.

I hope you enjoy reading the first edition. We look forward to bringing you more updates on a project I am so proud to be a part of and that will deliver benefits not just today, but for generations to come.

Jon Whelan

Jon Whelan

Chief Executive

Department for Infrastructure and Transport



HUNGRY FOR MORE

Inside the Richmond café serving up more than just a menu

Belinda Schuttloffel devours popular bacon and egg bun

➔ **It's no secret that South Australians are spoilt for choice when it comes to great cafés. But just off a busy stretch of South Road sits Devour Café Patisserie, and it's not just what's on the menu that keeps customers coming back.**

Since opening their Davenport Terrace doors in 2014, husband and wife team Quang and Thy Nguyen have built a loyal following, winning over locals early with their breakfast and lunch selections, before holding many successful dessert nights.

"We were met with a lineup stretching around the block," Thy said.

That strong community support is something Thy hopes to see grow further once the River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project is complete.

"Accessibility is everything in Adelaide, and the River Torrens to Darlington Project will connect people like never before, making cafés like ours easier to access," she said.

These days, Devour is a bustling spot where regulars are greeted by name and coffee orders remembered. That personal touch, Thy believes, has been their recipe for success.

"Having a chat with their smiling faces when they come in to grab a coffee or a bite to eat makes me feel so positive, and I hope they leave here feeling the same," she said.

The menu blends familiar favourites with a sprinkle of their Vietnamese heritage.

"For instance, instead of just putting bacon and eggs inside a roll, we used to put ours inside a steamed bao bun, which to my knowledge we were the first in Adelaide to do," said Thy.

From bao buns to steak sandwiches served on soft bap rolls, it's the couple's creativity in the kitchen and flair for flavour that has locals hungry for more.

"They're our two most in-demand meals, as lots of the tradies or athletes from the local sports clubs come in regularly for the bacon and egg rolls, but everyone else seems to love the steak sandwich, which we've been told is the best around."

Devour Café is located at 52 Davenport Terrace, Richmond, and open six days a week.

Your stories, your road, your future

We're celebrating and supporting the small businesses that make South Road and its neighbourhoods special.

Want to feature your business? Let us know!
➔➔ T2Dnews@sa.gov.au

BLESSING THE BUILD

How a centuries-old tradition is shaping the future of transport in South Australia

➔ Before South Australia's mega machines can start their journey underground, there's one thing they need — a name.

To mark the milestone delivery of the first Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) components, South Australians have been invited to take part in a time-honoured tradition, naming the TBMs that will help shape the State's future.

Across the world, TBMs are customarily given female names before they begin their journey underground, a tradition inspired by Saint Barbara, the patron saint of tunnellers, miners and all those working in underground construction. It's a practice that blends centuries-old belief with cutting-edge construction — a tribute to tradition as these massive machines prepare to carve out the future.



Saint Barbara blessing, Melbourne's Metro Tunnel Project

From local legends to South Australian trailblazers, the TBMs on the T2D Project will carry names that are meaningful, memorable and proudly local.

While naming is symbolic, the scale and impact of what is being delivered is very real. The T2D Project will support approximately 5,500 jobs per year during main construction, with 90 per cent of labour hours to be carried out by South Australians.

The T2D Project is the final piece in a 78-kilometre non-stop, traffic-light free motorway that will change how people move around Adelaide.



The first TBM undergoing Factory Acceptance Testing



Scan the QR code to see our TBM fully assembled for Factory Acceptance Testing



FROM LEGO TO SOUTH ROAD LEGACY

➔ As a child, Lynette Curry spent her days outside with her brother and sister, turning their front garden into a miniature world. Amongst the agapanthus plants, they built Lego houses, roads and bridges, complete with dirt highways and overpasses. Little did she know back then, these would become the building blocks for her future.

"It was our imaginary city where we visited each other by driving along the dirt roads with the toy cars to have parties at each of our Lego houses," she recalled.

Today, Lynette is still building things, just on a much larger scale, as the T2D Alliance's Design Director for the \$15.4 billion River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project.



From designing dirt roads as a child to career-defining construction as an adult

"I get to solve big problems, lead talented teams and help shape something that will last for generations. It's a grown-up version of building cities in my mother's garden beds, just with a much bigger budget and a lot more meetings," she said.

Her days are a bit like air traffic control for design, fast-paced and high-stakes, requiring a clear head and calm leadership. It's Lynette's job to ensure her team has the tools, systems and support they need to build a non-stop South Road.

"Engineering is about solving problems and that requires imagination, innovation and the ability to see possibilities where others see limits. Just like an artist uses colour and form, engineers use materials, systems, space and design thinking to bring ideas to life. Whether it's building a bridge, designing a new project or streamlining a process, creativity is the spark that drives practical solutions and turns complex challenges into something tangible and impactful," she said.

That creativity isn't something Lynette leaves at the office. From making mosaics to upcycling clothes and gardening, her hobbies outside of work help keep her balanced and inspired. And while there's still a long road ahead, she's looking forward to the day she can drive through the completed T2D Project, not just as a commuter but as someone who helped bring it to life.



Lynette pursuing her hobbies

"The joy and pride I will feel when I drive through the Project knowing that I was part of the team who made all of it happen," she said.

It's a long way from those childhood Lego cities, and Lynette can't help but wonder what her younger self would think of it all.

"She would probably be equal parts of amazed and confused. Amazed that the big dreams turned into something real, something massive and world-changing. And confused because Design Director does not quite sound like the superhero or artist I imagined, but in many ways, it's both," she reflected.

LONG ROAD HOME



Malcolm Short

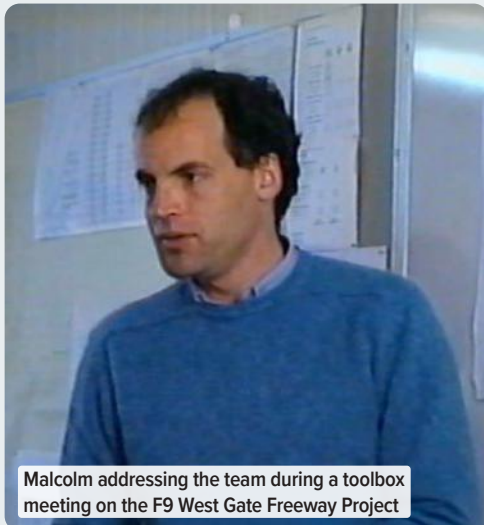
Back to where it began, helping drive South Australia's future

➔ They say life comes full circle. For Malcolm Short, that circle looks a lot more like a tunnel.

After four decades building some of the world's biggest infrastructure projects, he's back in Adelaide, living in the suburb he grew up in and helping to reshape the way our city moves.

Malcolm's career has taken him around the globe, from London to Melbourne to his first mega project in Bangkok in the early 90s, where he helped shape the Thai city's Second Stage Expressway, a major project that spanned 22 kilometres of elevated roadway.

"I saw there how engineering can improve people's lives, because what I initially viewed as a busy city with chaotic traffic, suddenly became easier to traverse. Immersion in the culture of a foreign country was also a great experience," he said.



Malcolm addressing the team during a toolbox meeting on the F9 West Gate Freeway Project

"To be involved in projects that positively impact communities is the essence of engineering and on a personal note provides a great deal of satisfaction."

After building his experience overseas, Malcolm returned to be a part of Melbourne's CityLink, Australia's largest infrastructure project at the time, taking it from planning to delivery. He has since filled roles on a number of other major Australian tunnel projects on the eastern seaboard and in Perth.

By 2020, after decades on the move, Malcolm was pleased to be able to return home, accepting the role of Director, Engineering for the River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project.

"A job the size of the River Torrens to Darlington Project would be exciting anywhere, but it's extra special for Adelaide – not only for me, but for the city's young engineers.

"Adelaide is Australia's only mainland capital city without a non-stop motorway in the metro area, so I feel as if helping to shape then deliver the Project is my way of giving back," he said.

When he's not poring over project plans, Malcolm likes to get out to the wine regions as much as possible, Coonawarra being a favourite.

"Adelaide and SA as a whole is a beautiful place to live and I'm very happy to be back," he said.

THE ANCIENT CLAY PAVING THE WAY

➔ It might not look like much, but this brown, murky mix has a story that began millions of years ago. Formed from ancient volcanic ash, it's now helping pave the way for a non-stop South Road and a greener future for transport in South Australia.

It's called bentonite, a naturally occurring clay with a unique superpower. When mixed with water it becomes a thick, absorbent slurry that can swell and hold its shape. This makes it perfect for building retaining walls — like the ones needed to safely dig tunnels for the River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project, which are called "diaphragm walls".

Diaphragm walls are constructed one panel at a time to form a deep, reinforced concrete pit called a "launch box" — a massive trench where the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) will be assembled and begin excavating the tunnels.

As soil is removed to create each panel which will form the diaphragm walls in the ground, bentonite slurry is pumped in to keep it stable. A steel cage is then lowered into each panel and then concrete is poured in from the bottom up. The volume of concrete pushes the bentonite out, leaving behind a strong, reinforced wall.



But the benefits of bentonite go beyond what it does; it's how it's used that will help make the T2D Project one of South Australia's most environmentally conscious road builds.

Once the bentonite is pushed out of the trench, it's collected, cleaned and reused. Even the leftover water isn't wasted. A dedicated treatment system filters what's left behind, so it can be used on site or safely discharged into the sewer system.



Scan the QR code to watch how even the oldest materials can help build the future



A CENTURY ON



➔ When Colin Wagener first got behind the wheel in 1934, traffic lights hadn't made it to Adelaide, owning a car was a luxury few could afford, and Sir Donald Bradman was yet to wear the captain's cap.

Now 108 and Australia's oldest surviving World War II veteran, Colin has spent a lifetime on South Australian roads, and if someone had told him a century ago about the River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project, he wouldn't have believed it.

"We never would have imagined tunnels and multi-lane roads all the way to Darlington. The T2D Project is equivalent to saying back then that man would one day land on the moon," he said.

The \$15.4 billion T2D Project is South Australia's largest and most complex infrastructure build to date and once complete, will cut peak-hour travel by up to 40 minutes.

But beneath the bitumen and big infrastructure, South Road holds something more for the centenarian, not just a stretch of road, but a trip down memory lane.



From sandy weekends with his parents at Sellicks Beach to warm afternoons spent skating in the sun, South Road often set the moments that have stayed with Colin a lifetime.

"A lot of the road was through vineyards and horse paddocks along South Road, even before I got to Tapleys Hill at Darlington," Colin recalled.

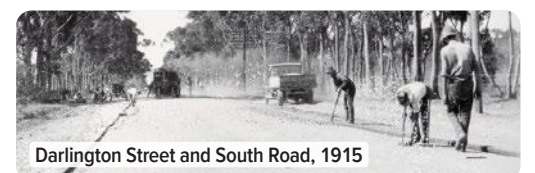


Flagstaff Hotel, Main South Road, Darlington, 1910

State Library of South Australia, B 5491

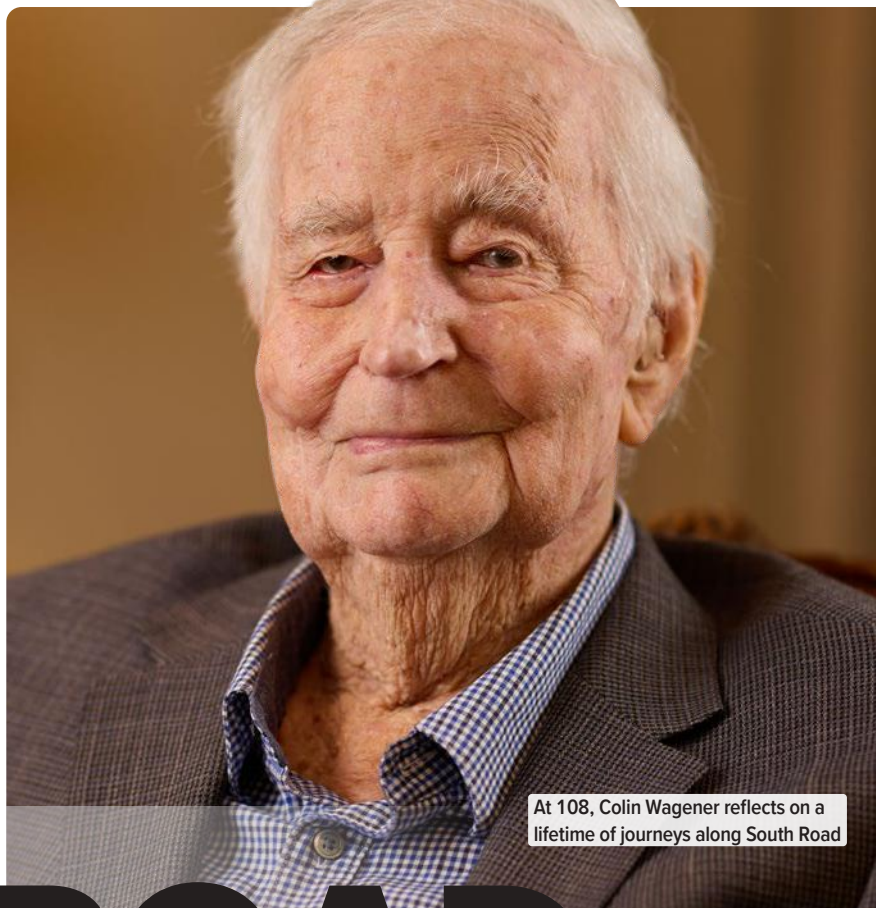
While our city streets were mostly sealed by the time Colin got his licence in 1934, cars were still a rarity.

"Kids found their way to school, they weren't dropped off and picked up again, they either walked or push biked," he said.



Darlington Street and South Road, 1915

State Library of South Australia, PRG 1631/45/28A



At 108, Colin Wagener reflects on a lifetime of journeys along South Road

SOUTH ROAD

Colin's journey through time

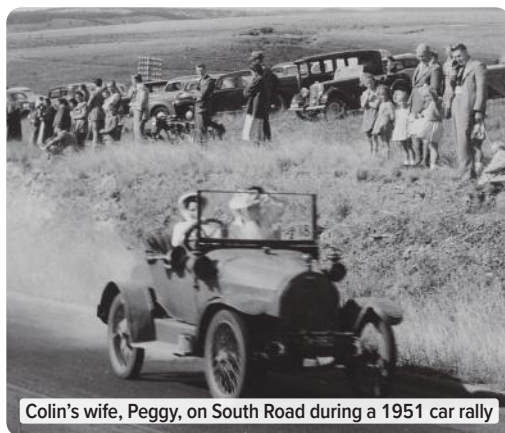
On his 16th birthday, Colin swapped those pedals for petrol when his parents gave him a motorbike. While it impressed his peers, his school principal wasn't as pleased.

"The headmaster was from the horse and buggy age, he told me the motorbike was the invention of the devil and never to bring it to school again," he said.



Colin Wagener at age 16

Those two wheels eventually became four, and not long after his wife Peggy joined him on the journey — first in life, marrying in 1941, then behind the wheel of a Clement, which she drove in a car rally along South Road.



Colin's wife, Peggy, on South Road during a 1951 car rally

Over the years Colin has covered countless kilometres across our State, even sharing the road with legendary Birdsville Mailman, Tom Kruse.

Four years ago, at the age of 104, Colin handed in his driver's licence.

"I think if I didn't the doctor would have," he chuckled.

These days, his journeys are slower, spent cruising the family farm in his beloved Jensen or on a motorbike.

From dirt tracks to modern motorways, Colin has seen every twist and turn South Australian roads have taken. Now, after a lifetime of driving and decades of change, he hopes to travel the completed T2D Project and reflect on a road that once led to beach weekends, country drives, and the kinds of memories that last a lifetime.

"As a motorist of 90 years of driving and seeing the incredible development of my city, even though I prefer the quiet old days, I commend the brave engineering initiatives to not only keep up but to enhance the growth of our city. I feel lucky to have lived so long as to witness such change. I hope I am able to one day be taken on the T2D and reminisce on the journeys I did through the vineyards and farms in my youth," he said.



Scan the QR code to watch Colin's extended interview

A friendly face on South Road, Rodney Nitschke has been helping South Australians relax for more than 20 years



SOAKING UP SUCCESS



For more than 20 years, Affordable Spas has been helping South Australians soak up the good life, one spa at a time.

Tucked along South Road in Clovelly Park, the family-owned business first opened its doors in 2003 and now services customers right across the State, from backyard installations to repairs and maintenance.

Owner Rodney Nitschke said while plenty has changed over the years, their commitment to friendly expert service has stayed the same.

“We’re a family business, we sell Australian-made spas, we service what we sell and look after our customers in the future,” he said.

With work on the River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project taking place just outside their doors, he’s looking forward to the long-term benefits a non-stop South Road will bring.

“In our business, with deliveries and site inspections, it’s going to make it a lot easier to go from one side of the city to the other,” Rodney said.

“It’s something we really needed for the future, and the way the other cities have gone, we really needed it here in South Australia to make traffic flow.”

While construction has brought some expected challenges, Rodney said the Project team has done a great job keeping the business informed and operations running smoothly.

Affordable Spas is located at 1168 South Road, Clovelly Park.

Your stories, your road, your future

We’re celebrating and supporting the small businesses that make South Road and its neighbourhoods special.

Want to feature your business? Let us know!
→→ T2Dnews@sa.gov.au



Affordable Spas has called South Road home since 2003

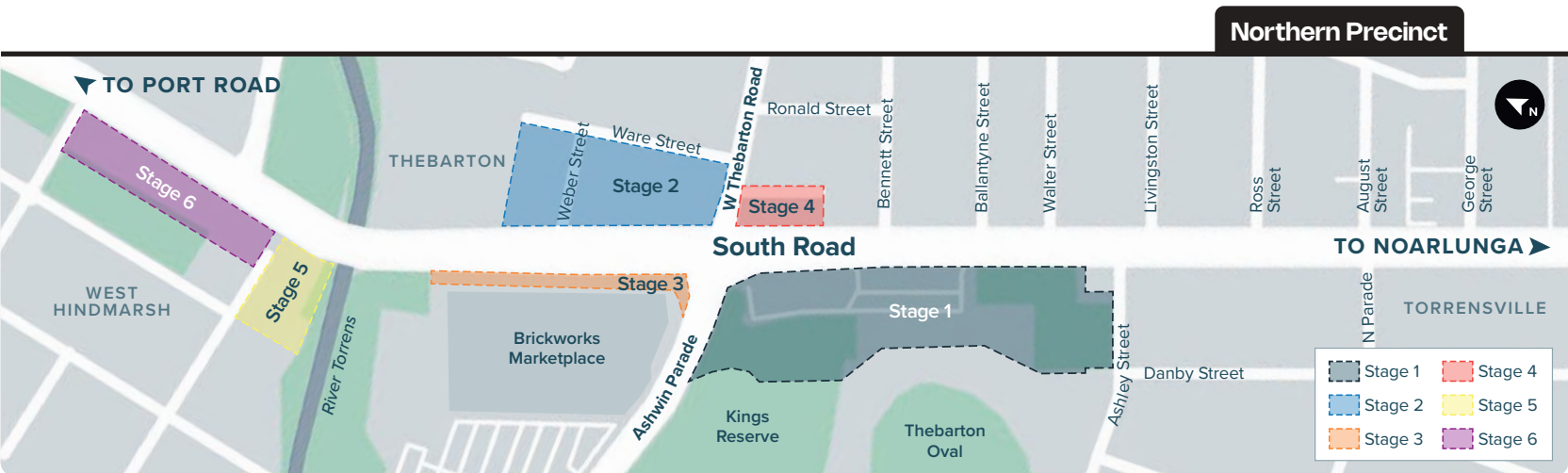
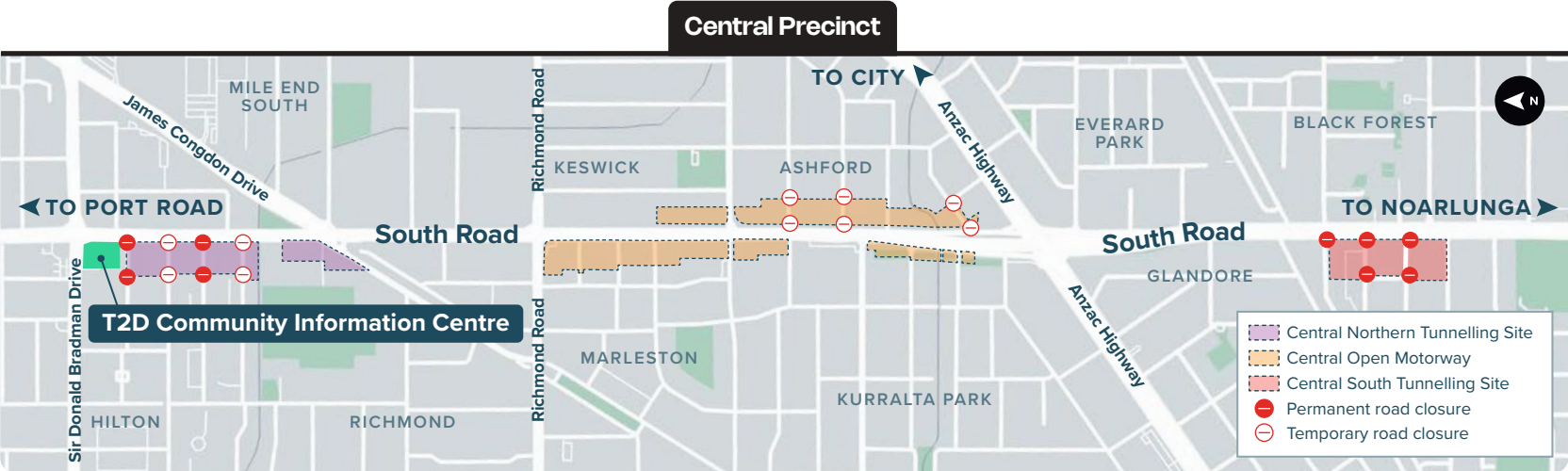
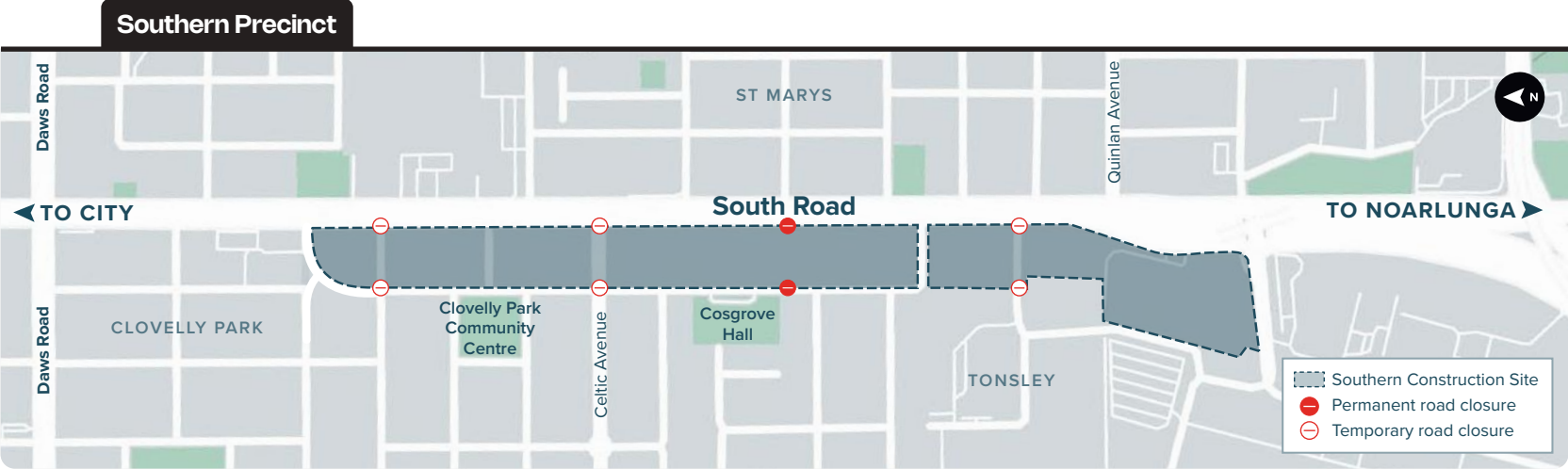
PROJECT UPDATE

➔ The River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project has three main construction zones: the Northern, Central and Southern Construction Precincts. These precincts will accommodate tunnelling operations and surface level construction work to build the open motorway and associated urban infrastructure.

The **Southern** Precinct, located between Tonsley Boulevard and Norrie Avenue at Clovelly Park, will support launch operations for the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) that will excavate the Southern Tunnels. Work here is well underway as the team prepares for tunnelling to begin, with TBM components now arriving and assembly underway.

The **Central** Precinct, located along South Road between Sir Donald Bradman Drive in Hilton and Cross Road in Glandore, will include an open motorway, tunnel launch and retrieval sites, and connections to key east-west routes. Work is now underway to construct a new section of road that will temporarily carry traffic, allowing excavation of the open motorway to begin while keeping South Road moving. The northern end of this precinct is where the TBM that will excavate the Northern Tunnels will be launched and retrieved. The southern part of this precinct will serve as the retrieval site for the TBMs constructing the Southern Tunnels.

At the **Northern** Precinct, located near Torrensville's Brickworks Marketplace, work has started to prepare the area for future tunnelling activity. Demolition has begun to make way for construction, including the entry and exit points for the Northern Tunnels. Once the TBM finishes excavating the northbound Northern Tunnel, it will be turned around at this site to construct the southbound Northern Tunnel.



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A NON-STOP SOUTH ROAD



 **From smoother surfaces and brand-new link roads, to improved connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists — early upgrades are already making life easier for Adelaide motorists, and will ensure our road network functions efficiently both during construction of the T2D Project and once it is completed.**

In Hindmarsh, the upgraded Manton Street and Adam Street junction opened to traffic in December 2024, with the intersection redesigned to ease congestion for city-bound traffic and improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

Further south, a new link road connecting Selgar Avenue to MAB Circuit and Tonsley Boulevard opened in January 2024, giving locals another way in and out of the area, and helping traffic flow more freely on nearby streets.

In addition, a 7.5-kilometre stretch of South Road was resurfaced, making the drive safer and smoother for the 50,000 vehicles that use it each day.

A number of local link roads have also been completed, including new connections between Norrie and English Avenues, and between Selgar and York Avenues.

While smaller in scale, these upgrades are already making a big difference for locals, helping traffic flow more smoothly and improving access to homes and businesses.

Major work is underway on the James Congdon Drive and Sir Donald Bradman Drive upgrade, which will make it easier to get from South Road straight to the city.

Meanwhile, the Raglan Avenue, Edward Street and South Road network upgrade that will remove the dogleg movement from traffic travelling between Edward Street and Raglan Avenue, is also underway and expected to open to traffic in late 2026.

The Grange Road, Holbrooks Road and East Avenue Intersection Upgrade is expected to open to traffic in the coming months, which will remove the frustrating dogleg intersection across Grange Road at Beverley.

They're all part of a broader effort to reduce disruption during major construction, as a non-stop South Road starts to take shape.



Scan the QR code to see how the Raglan Avenue, Edward Street and South Road intersection is changing



SHOW WILL GO ON



Thebarton Theatre set to celebrate centenary

➔ From Cat Stevens to Coldplay, Louis Armstrong to Kylie Minogue, Adelaide’s beloved Thebarton Theatre has played host to some of the world’s biggest names.

Now, as the iconic venue prepares to celebrate its centenary, it has been given a new lease on life. A recent \$8 million upgrade has revitalised the space, while South Australia’s biggest infrastructure project has been carefully planned to protect the landmark for generations to come.

The final T2D design includes two sets of tunnels connected by an open motorway, allowing major construction to not impact much-loved culturally significant sites.

More than 50 per cent of the Project will be built underground, protecting areas surrounding the Queen of Angels Church and the Thebarton Theatre — known affectionately as “The Thebby” to locals.

The Thebby first opened its doors in 1928, officially launched by Mayor H.S. Hatwell Esq. More than just a venue for bands and singers, it hosts concerts, comedy nights, films, musicals, sporting events and school performances. For many South Australians, it is where they saw their first live show.



Photos courtesy of Eric Alegra (www.rocknrollcity.com.au)

Recently reopened following a major refurbishment, the theatre now boasts a two-storey entrance, landscaped plaza, refurbished amenities and improved accessibility. The traditional billboard on the eastern facade replaced with a digital screen, giving the venue a modern edge while retaining its historic charm.



Thebarton Theatre, opening ceremony, 11 June 1928

Music milestones

Major acts by year

1959	Johnnie Ray
	Johnny O’Keefe & The Dee Jays
1961	Bobby Vee
	Connie Francis
	The Ventures
1963	Louis Armstrong & His All-Stars
1967	Eric Burdon & The Animals
1974	Cat Stevens
	Bee Gees
1975	Skyhooks (also 1983)
1976	Bo Diddley
1980	Cold Chisel (also 1982)
	Split Enz (also 1981, 1982, 1984)
1981	Billy Joel
	Joe Cocker (also 1982, 1984)
1982	Elvis Costello (also 1984, 1987)
	B.B. King (also 1989)
1984	Jimmy Barnes (also 1989, 2000, 2001, 2008, 2009, 2018)
1987	John Farnham
1989	Metallica
1992	Nirvana
1996	Green Day
1998	Foo Fighters (also 2005)
2001	Coldplay
2012	Ed Sheeran

GREENER PASTURES

New home for one of Adelaide's oldest bowling clubs

Torrensville Bowling Club member Bill Cooper enjoying the club's new home in Thebarton

➔ A new chapter has begun for one of Adelaide's oldest lawn bowls clubs, with the Torrensville Bowling Club opening the doors to its new state-of-the-art home in Thebarton.

The move from its former site on South Road was made to allow for construction of the River Torrens to Darlington (T2D) Project.

Located on the southern bank of the River Torrens, the 7,000-square-metre facility includes 24 synthetic rinks, 12 of which are covered by a large canopy that was successfully relocated from South Road.

The canopy, which was installed at the previous site in 2019, is considered an important feature by the club's 200-plus members as it helps protect them from the elements.

Alongside the greens, the site also features new clubrooms with a function space, commercial kitchen and car parking.

The move to a new site, bordered by the River Torrens, Dennis Mutton Drive and Murray Street, meant the club could keep its identity and independence without merging with another club.



Scan the QR code to see how the club's iconic canopy was carefully reinstalled at the new site



Torrensville Bowling Club in Thebarton

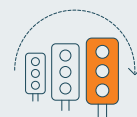


From left: Ric Gatto, Brenton Rolton, Lisa Williams



The club's iconic canopy reinstalled

T2D Project benefits



Allow motorists to bypass 21 sets of traffic lights between the River Torrens and Darlington, improving travel times by up to 40 minutes during peak-hour traffic.



Support 5,500 jobs per year during main construction, creating a skills legacy for South Australia.



Improve safety and travel times between the River Torrens and Darlington, by reducing the amount of stop-start traffic on South Road, resulting in about 200 fewer crashes per year on this section of the road network.



Unlock the full potential of the North-South Corridor, completing a 78-kilometre non-stop journey between Gawler and Old Noarlunga.



Provide urban renewal opportunities for local businesses and residents through new and upgraded walking and cycling paths, green spaces and recreational areas.



Reduce traffic congestion by taking around 130,000 weekday trips into tunnels and reduce congestion on surrounding major roads, including Marion Road and Goodwood Road.



Preserve important cultural and heritage sites, including Thebarton Theatre and the Queen of Angels Church.



Provide better access to travel gateways, including Adelaide Airport, Port Adelaide and the national highway network.

Suggest a story

We're always looking for great community stories to feature. Whether it's a small business more people should know about, a local legend, or a special memory of South Road through the years, we'd love to hear from you. Send your story ideas to: T2Dnews@sa.gov.au



We speak your language

Scan the QR code to read this information in your language.

T2D.sa.gov.au

