

Monday, 9 November 2009

## **RAIL ELECTRIFICATION CHARGED TO START**

A key part of the State Government's massive rail revitalisation plan will get underway with Expressions of Interest being called tomorrow to undertake works for the more than \$400 million electrification of Adelaide's metropolitan rail network.

Premier Mike Rann said the electrification of the metropolitan rail network is a major component of this Government's \$2 billion investment in public transport infrastructure.

"Electrification will provide more modern and efficient train services for commuters including environmental benefits like reduced noise and local air pollution.

"Electrification design works will be underway next year with major site works installation beginning in 2011.

"We expect the new \$1.4 billion electric train service to begin operating in 2013, following the delivery of the first new rolling stock in 2012.

"Electrification of our rail network is a significant part of our overall plan to transform our public transport system into the best in Australia.

"Together with the Commonwealth we are rolling out the biggest infrastructure partnership since Federation and this includes a joint investment in public transport.

**"This includes \$294 m from the Federal Government to accelerate the electrification of the Gawler line by two years and \$291 m to extend the rail line from Noarlunga to Seaford.**

"We are now investing six times more in public infrastructure in our State than seven years ago."

Transport Minister Patrick Conlon said the Rann Government's \$2 billion, decade-long investment in public transport will transform Adelaide's network into a vibrant, state-of-the-art system.

"Around the world, cities with high-frequency metropolitan passenger rail services use electric trains because they are quieter, faster between stations and more environmentally-friendly," he said.

"We have successfully upgraded the track on the Belair Line, and work will soon begin upgrading the track on the Noarlunga line.

"With work also scheduled on the Gawler and Outer Harbor lines as a precursor to electrification, we are set for a new era for public transport."

The Department for Transport Energy and Infrastructure is calling for Expressions of Interest for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the electrified rail network. The advertisement (***\*attached***) will appear in the press tomorrow.

For further information contact Sam Ion on 0417 866 097