

News Release

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Tony Piccolo MP

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Rail Revolution Gaining Steam

Electrification of the Gawler rail line moved a step closer last week following the presentation of a project report to the parliamentary Public Works Committee (Wednesday 16th December).

Light MP Mr Tony Piccolo said the project totalling \$150 million involves the construction of a new track including the laying of new rail and the replacement of sleepers.

Mr Piccolo said the project will also involve improvements to track drainage and base layer to ensure ongoing track integrity.

Mr Piccolo said the projects will extend to include improvements to several level crossings and pedestrian crossings along the 42 kms track.

Work is scheduled to commence in early 2010 and the track upgrade should be completed by mid 2012.

Mr Piccolo said an environmental management plan will be implemented to ensure a number of heritage listed buildings near the line are not adversely affected.

The Gawler line caters for about 15,000 trips per week from 26 stations.

Mr Piccolo said the joint state commonwealth investment in public transport includes \$293.5 million from the Commonwealth that resulted in the acceleration of the Gawler line upgrade by two years.

The member for Wakefield Mr Nick Champion MP said the line upgrade will result in better and more environmentally sustainable services for Gawler and the northern suburbs and will give the areas a jobs boost at the same time.

Mr Piccolo said speed restrictions relating to track condition will be removed once work is completed, improving train travelling time.

Work on expanding the Gawler Train Station car park is scheduled to be undertaken during January 2010.

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