

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **LOWER MAINTENANCE COSTS, SAFER DRIVING AND NEW JOBS: SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S FIRST MAJOR CONCRETE MOTORWAY OPENS**

March 16, 2020

South Australia's first major concrete motorway has opened for business, driving strong economic benefits to the South Australian economy.

The \$885 million Northern Connector, in Adelaide, is a six lane, 15.5 kilometres motorway built of concrete, including 13 kilometres of concrete pavement.

The Chief Executive Officer of Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia, Ken Slattery, said that the opening of the new road would represent an economic boon to the city, providing road users with a more direct and faster link from the airport, port and city centre.

"This landmark project, constructed by Lendlease Engineering and supplied by Adelaide Brighton, is a vital piece of road infrastructure for Adelaide, resulting in the creation of new local jobs, faster freight routes, safer roads and lower maintenance costs," Mr Slattery said.

"The State Government estimated that at least 480 jobs were supported during the building of the road, including an extra 40 jobs that were created as a result of the decision to use concrete for the road and the bulk of the pavement.

"These local jobs - from batch plant workers and truck drivers to paving plant operators – have contributed an estimated \$11 million extra to local industry."

Mr Slattery said improved safety was an important reason for the use of concrete on major roads such as the Northern Connector, as well as savings on maintenance costs.

"This project is a major showcase for concrete constructed motorways nationally, demonstrating how concrete delivers significant economic, social, and environmental benefits over the long-term due to its durability and low maintenance costs," he said.

"The whole-of-life costs of this concrete motorway are approximately 40 per cent cheaper compared to alternative materials like asphalt, for example.

"In fact, the motorway is expected to save an estimated \$23 million in maintenance costs over the next 30 years of use, which is great news for South Australian taxpayers."

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