

2. The Environmental Impact Assessment Process

2.1 The environmental impact assessment process explained

The South Road Superway Project is being assessed using the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process (**Table 2.1**) similar to the major developments process under the *Development Act 1993*. Development Act provisions do not apply where land is owned by or acquired under section 20(5) of the *Highways Act 1926* (except in relation to a State Heritage Place or Significant Trees). The purpose of an EIA process is to adequately evaluate the effects of a proposed project so that decision making can take these effects into account and include appropriate mitigation or management measures.

In conjunction with the EIA process, extensive stakeholder engagement has informed detailed design development and the decision-making process for the project.

Environmental, social and economic investigations have identified and described the likely effects of the project on the existing environment and community, and outlined proposed management measures. This Project Impact Report describes the project, summarises the investigations, and outlines measures to avoid or minimise effects from the project.

The Project Impact Report will be publicly displayed for a period of 20 business days. During the display period, submissions are invited on any issues associated with the project. Formal comment is also requested from government agencies.

The report is available on compact disc, on the project website at www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au. Hard copies are on display at a number of locations throughout the study area, see website for display locations. The report's Executive Summary is also available.

A Supplement Report will be prepared to respond to submissions received from the public and government agencies. It will also outline the findings of investigations undertaken since the Project Impact Report was prepared.

The Supplement Report and Project Impact Report will be considered together before the proposed project is finalised for approval by the South Australian Government.

2.2 Purpose and objectives of the EIA

The Project Impact Report has been prepared to help interested groups, individuals, businesses, government agencies and local government understand the project. It sets a framework for considering the economic, social and environmental aspects of the project in the context of legislative and policy requirements.

The Project Impact Report aims to:

- inform the community (including businesses) about the project and the alternatives considered
- describe the existing environment within the study area
- identify the environmental, social and economic effects and benefits of the project
- describe how any adverse effects will be avoided, minimised or managed
- provide an opportunity for public comment.

Table 2.1 sets out indicative timeframes for the project including how the EIA process and Project Impact Report fit in.

Table 2.1. Indicative project timeline with EIA detail

Stage	Timing
Investigation of possible options and preliminary environmental, social and economic investigations	2008–April 2009
Stakeholder engagement	March–September 2009
Design options assessment workshops held with key stakeholders, industry representatives and government agencies	April 2009
Preliminary concept planning of proposed project	April–September 2009
Environmental, social and economic investigations. Ongoing consideration of stakeholder feedback	April–September 2009
Public consultation on Project Impact Report	October–November 2009
Supplementary document to Project Impact Report	February 2010
South Australian Government approval of proposed route	Early 2010
Land acquisition and detailed design. Early works packages	2010–2011
Construction	2010–2013

2.3 Study area

The extent of the study area of investigations for the Project Impact Report (**Figure 2.1**) seeks to reasonably define the area of influence. It is defined by Churchill Road, Regency Road, Hanson Road and the Port River Expressway.

Beyond this study area, a regional area of influence has also been considered. Key issues within the study area have been assessed, as have secondary and tertiary issues such as regional economic drivers extending beyond the immediate study area.

2.4 Content and structure of the Project Impact Report

The Project Impact Report has been structured as an easy-to-read document that identifies the key issues common to all environmental assessment documents (**Table 2.2**).

Table 2.2 Structure and content of the Project Impact Report

Section	Description
Executive Summary	Summarises the Project Impact Report
PART A	
Introduction and context	Provides an overview of the project, describes the environmental impact assessment process, and details the community and stakeholder engagement process
Need for the proposal and consideration of alternatives	Justifies the project, describes the alternative options considered and summarises the economic assessment
Description of the South Road Superway Project	Describes the proposed South Road Superway Project and construction, operation and maintenance activities
PART B	
Effects of the South Road Superway	Describes existing conditions, potential effects on the social, cultural, economic, physical and biological environment, and measures to manage the effects
Environmental management	Provides information on sustainability and environmental management and monitoring relating to the project
PART C	

Section	Description
Abbreviations and Glossary	Lists the abbreviations used and defines the terms used in the Project Impact Report
Bibliography and Acknowledgements	Lists the documents referenced in the Project Impact Report and acknowledges people involved in preparing the report

For assessment of each key issue:

- the existing environment/community relevant to the issue has been described
- the effect of the South Road Superway Project on the existing environment and community has been assessed
- measures to manage the effects of the project have been developed.

Key environmental, social and economic investigations were undertaken for:

- business and community profile
- land use and zoning
- property
- cultural heritage (including Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal)
- visual analysis
- flora and fauna
- surface water and groundwater
- transport
- noise and vibration
- air quality
- geology, soils and land contamination
- greenhouse and sustainability
- economic development.

These investigations are described in Part B of the Project Impact Report.



Study Area

Figure 2.1