

## Vital Freight Link One Step Closer

The Joy Baluch AM Bridge in Port Augusta is of strategic importance to national supply chains and its duplication was long overdue.

The duplication project was strongly advocated for by the South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy (SACOME), the South Australian Freight Council (SAFC) and the Royal Automobile Association (RAA) who recognized its importance in connecting the nation's east-west and north-south freight routes.

In 2018, this advocacy was rewarded by a joint State and Federal funding commitment of \$200 Million to duplicate the bridge in favour of continued work around solutions such as the Yorkey's Crossing.

The Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication Project in Port Augusta is now one step closer to completion with the newly constructed bridge to be opened to traffic this weekend.

A community celebration will take place on the new bridge this Saturday, with traffic to be opened from this Sunday, 15 May 2022.

SACOME CEO, Rebecca Knol, said "The Joy Baluch AM Bridge duplication project is a critical infrastructure priority for SACOME that will help connect the nation's east-west and north-south freight routes."

"Port Augusta is a hub for South Australia's mineral-rich far north and western regions, and the duplication of the Joy Baluch AM Bridge will support the projected growth of the resources sector as well as benefit agriculture, tourism, defence and the broader community."

"SACOME is delighted that the project is progressing well and looks forward to the duplication of the bridge being fully completed by the end of the year."

RAA Senior Manager Safety and Infrastructure, Charles Mountain, welcomed the much-anticipated opening of the new bridge.

"The duplication of the bridge will ensure the safety and reliability of crossing for all road users and importantly provide a safer environment for pedestrians," he said.

Phil Baker, Chairman of the South Australian Freight Council said "SAFC are pleased to see this critical piece of infrastructure work completed having long advocated for the duplication and the advantages it will bring to the local community and the wider economic benefits of the state."

The Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication Project is being delivered by the Port Wakefield to Port Augusta Alliance. For further information about the project and the community celebration planned for this Saturday 14 May, visit [Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication - PW2PA Alliance](#)

Once the new bridge opens, the existing Joy Baluch AM Bridge will temporarily close to traffic for six months to allow refurbishment works to be undertaken, with the full project expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

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South  
Australian  
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