

**Date:** 9 March 2023

## Joy Baluch AM Bridge Freight Link Complete

The duplication of the Joy Baluch AM Bridge in Port Augusta will be officially complete next week, with a community celebration planned for the evening of Tuesday 14 March before reopening to traffic.

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 recognised its strategic 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 and refurbish the existing bridge.

SACOME CEO, Rebecca Knol, said "The Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication Project has been a critical infrastructure priority for SACOME that will help connect national supply chains."

"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."

"This project has been years in the making and it's wonderful that the duplication and refurbishment of the original bridge is now complete".

RAA Senior Manager Safety and Infrastructure, Charles Mountain, welcomed the much-anticipated opening of the Joy Baluch AM Bridge.

"The duplication of the bridge and the refurbishment of the original Joy Baluch AM Bridge will ensure the safety and reliability of crossing for all road users and the local Port Augusta community," he said.

Jonathan Wilson, CEO of the South Australian Freight Council, said "SAFC are pleased to see this important piece of infrastructure work complete. The bridge forms a crucial part of our national infrastructure and will bring benefits to the local community as well as wider economic benefits to SA."

The Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication Project is being delivered by the Port Wakefield to Port Augusta Alliance.

### **South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy**

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For further information about the project and the community celebration planned for this Tuesday 14 March, visit [Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication - PW2PA Alliance](#)

A video of the opening of the duplicated bridge that took place in May 2022 can be viewed [here](#). Since May, the original Joy Baluch AM Bridge has been closed to traffic to undergo refurbishment.

To safely facilitate the opening to traffic of the refurbished Joy Baluch AM Bridge, night works will be undertaken intermittently from Wednesday, 8 March 2023, to mid-April 2023, weather permitting. Please see map and further details [here](#).

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**About SACOME**

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy is the leading industry association representing resource and energy companies, including those who provide services to them.