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### **Funds on way for Port bridges**

SEPARATE opening road and rail bridges will be built across the Port River as part of an \$11.8 billion national transport plan to be unveiled today.

The long-awaited \$80 million Port River Expressway bridges will cut 4km off the rail journey between the Port of Adelaide and grain terminals.

Rail tracks also will be reconfigured on Le Fevre Peninsula to eliminate 14 level crossings. This will allow train speed limits to be lifted from 25km/h to 60km/h.

Although planning for the Port River bridges has begun, no funding had been guaranteed for the project.

Acting Prime Minister John Anderson will pledge the money as part of the five-year AusLink plan.

He said the program, which has taken 2 1/2 years to develop, was the equivalent of two Snowy Mountain hydro-electric schemes, which "people talk about as a great national building program".

The Government also will announce a timetable for linking Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane by a dual-carriageway.

"In due course, we need to go beyond Melbourne in the south towards Adelaide," Mr Anderson said.

Under the Auslink program, South Australia will receive about \$200 million to spend on road and rail projects over the next five years, with about \$95 million specifically for the expressway.

The Government estimates the cost of the two bridges and associated road works to be \$80 million.

State Infrastructure Minister Pat Conlon said the bridges were of key importance to SA.

"However, we will be seeking further talks with the Federal Government over what conditions they may be considering placing on the funding," he said.

The Federal Government earmarked more than \$15 million in last month's Budget for a new four-lane road as part of stage one of the expressway.

Both of the new bridges will open, but this is opposed by the SA Freight Council, which believes the money saved by building fixed bridges could be directed into developing Outer Harbor.

South Australian Farmers' Federation president John Lush said the rail bridge would be important to the expansion of Outer Harbor. "We need to be able to move large amounts of grain for export and a rail bridge will allow this to occur quickly," he said.