

# Media Release

Tuesday 29 June 2010  
Embargoed 10:00am (ACST)

## Report card finds South Australia's infrastructure stressed

The release today of the Engineers Australia 2010 South Australian Infrastructure Report Card indicates that all sectors of infrastructure need attention, with about half needing major to critical changes.

The South Australian Division President of Engineers Australia, Doug Gillott, said, "While there has been progress in some areas of infrastructure over the past five years, the overall picture clearly shows that South Australia's infrastructure is stressed."

The 2010 report card reviewed infrastructure categories across energy, telecommunications, transport and water and assigned ratings \* within the scales of A – F, and provides many comparisons with the initial 2005 South Australia Infrastructure Report Card. The 2010 report card includes a rating for Airports, Ports, Irrigation, Roads Overall, and Telecommunications, which were not rated in 2005.

Across the 2010 report card categories - six get a good "B" – needing minor changes - six get a "C" - needing major changes; and two get a "D" - needing critical changes.

The "B" ratings were given to Airports (B minus), Electricity (B minus), Gas (B plus), Ports (B minus), Potable Water (B) and Wastewater (B minus). The "C" ratings covered Irrigation (C plus), National Roads (C), State Roads (C), Roads Overall (C minus), Rail (C), and Telecommunications (C). The "D" ratings were for Local Roads and Stormwater.

The 2010 report shows that reasonable improvements have been made since 2005 in the areas of State Roads, Potable Water and Wastewater. The ratings for Electricity, Gas, Local and National Roads, Rail, and Stormwater have remained the same.

"While significant investment in new infrastructure is required, of critical importance is the maintenance of existing infrastructure rather than waiting for it to fail.

"More strategic planning and actions needs to be taken now to ensure that the State has liveable, productive and sustainable cities, towns and regions for our future," Gillott said.

Recommendations of the Report include:

- Further integration of State-wide planning, especially transport strategies, to improve the movement of people and freight;
- shifts in transport modes from road to rail for freight, and from private to public transport for people;
- increased funding for all infrastructure, including maintenance and renewal, to ensure the State's long term productivity;
- prioritised development of port infrastructure in regional South Australia to support the emerging mineral resources sector;
- continued diversity of water supply options, including greater take up of recycled water;

- deliver improvements to stormwater infrastructure in flood prone areas and apply careful planning to new urban infill schemes;
- increase efforts to achieve the State’s sustainability objectives with regard to energy use, especially with respect to base load electricity generation;
- provide a financial and regulatory environment that facilitates the creation of renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure to meet the State Government’s ambitious renewable energy targets; and
- give further consideration to road infrastructure funding alternatives to enable earlier provision of key road links.

The report includes comprehensive analysis and comment and includes the ratings table below for the current and past South Australian and National Report Cards.

Infrastructure Type	SA 2010	SA 2005	National 2005	National 2001
Roads Overall	C-	Not rated	C	Not rated
National roads	C	C	C+	C
State roads	C	C-	C	C-
Local roads	D	D	C-	D
Rail	C	C ARTC B- Metropolitan D Regional	C-	D-
Ports	B-	Not rated	C+	B
Airports	B-	Not rated	B	B
Potable water	B	B- Metropolitan C Non-metropolitan	B-	C
Wastewater	B-	C+ Metropolitan C- Non-metropolitan	C+	C-
Stormwater	D	D	C-	D
Irrigation	C+	Not rated	C-	D-
Electricity	B-	B-	C+	B-
Gas	B+	B+ Overall B+ Transmission A- Distribution B+ LP Gas	C+	C
Telecommunications	C	Not rated	Not rated	B

**Further Information:** Summaries of each infrastructure type, grade and comment are attached and a copy of the 208-page report is available at [www.engineersaustralia.org.au/ircsa](http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/ircsa) . The report card is the third released in the new series that will be completed for all States and Territories by November 2010.

(\* The ratings have been based on an assessment of asset condition, asset availability and reliability, asset management and sustainability. An “A” means very good and the infrastructure is fit for its current and anticipated future purposes; “B” is good, with minor changes needed to meeting current and future needs; “C” is adequate, but major changes required; “D” is poor, with critical changes required; and “F” is inadequate).

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The following summarises the 2010 South Australian Infrastructure Report Card ratings.

Infrastructure Type	Grade	Comment
Roads Overall National roads State roads Local roads	C- C C D	These ratings recognise that significant improvements are needed in road infrastructure, notably a need to address the significant maintenance backlog in regional and metropolitan areas, and growing congestion and slow speeds on major Adelaide arterial roads. Deterioration in the road network is likely unless increased funding for capital works and maintenance occurs, coupled with a reduction in the distance travelled per capita.
Rail	C	This rating recognises that the metropolitan rail network has experienced a continual decline in service quality over the last 5 years, however significant planned investments should arrest this trend. The intrastate rail network has improved marginally in some areas, but the remainder of this network continues to wither. The interstate network has improved due to selective upgrades by the ARTC, but bottlenecks remain, particularly in the Adelaide Hills and metropolitan areas.
Ports	B-	This rating recognises that the ports are generally fit for their current purpose. However, major expansion of existing ports or the development of new ports will be needed to accommodate any significant increase in mineral exports.
Airports	B-	This rating recognises that there have been continual upgrades at Adelaide Airport and regional airports. However, some smaller airports have limited financial means to provide the improved airport infrastructure required to accommodate heavier aircraft and new security measures.
Potable water	B	This rating recognises that country water supply has improved due to the Country Water Quality Improvement Program, as will metropolitan supply reliability with the completion of the Adelaide Desalination Plant. However, there is a need to continue to increase the diversity of supply in both rural and metropolitan areas, so as to reduce reliance on River Murray water and groundwater, and to reduce demand.
Wastewater	B-	This rating recognises that there have been improvements in the funding and asset quality of sewerage networks in both metropolitan and rural areas, a reduction in environmental impacts from sewage, and a continual growth in the reuse of wastewater.
Stormwater	D	This rating recognises that while stormwater reuse continues to rise in SA, there are a number of areas in Adelaide that remain flood prone and require improved drainage and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, there is a concern that existing stormwater infrastructure will be more frequently overwhelmed due to increased runoff arising from urban infill that creates larger impervious areas.
Irrigation	C+	This rating recognises that while there has been improvement in irrigation infrastructure, such as replacing open channels with pipes, constructing salt interception schemes and increasing the use of recycled water, there is concern about the long-term viability of much irrigation infrastructure due to poor management of the total Murray-Darling water resource.
Electricity	B-	This rating recognises that SA has sufficient generation capacity to meet demand until 2012/13. However, peak demand growth needs to be moderated to prevent high cost, low utilisation infrastructure being required. While the present significant expansion in transmission and distribution network infrastructure is important to rectify key limitations, ongoing growth in wind power and the development of distributed generation will require significant additional investment.
Gas	B+	This rating recognises that the two transmission pipelines in the State provide security of supply, and the distribution network is in adequate condition.
Telecommunications	C	This rating recognises that while telecommunication services are generally available to a high percentage of the population, there are still many blackspots in broadband and mobile coverage, and areas of network vulnerability due to a lack of competitive backhaul.