

Ambulance stations

Why are new ambulance stations being built?

Demand for ambulance services has increased year on year in South Australia. To support the provision of ambulance services, the Operational Growth Plan for SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) sets out how the Government of South Australia will deliver a \$311.2 million investment in staffing and infrastructure. This commitment will provide a massive boost to deliver brand new, completely rebuilt or upgraded ambulance stations, more ambulances and more staff to provide care for all South Australians.

When will the stations be operational?

Works will begin in 2023, with many stations becoming operational in mid-2024 to late-2025.

Where are the new and rebuilt stations?

New stations will be built for Norwood, Woodville, Edwardstown, Golden Grove and Adelaide. Stations for Victor Harbor, Mount Barker, Gawler and Campbelltown will be rebuilt either on their existing site or in more suitable locations in their local area. There are also ten stations earmarked for major upgrades.

Why were the new locations chosen?

The locations were chosen to help improve local ambulance coverage and response times.

Staff and visitors

Who will work from the stations?

Each station will have operational crews who start and end their shifts at their ambulance station, along with clinical leaders and support clinicians and a small administrative team. However, they do not all work at the same time, and are not all on-site at the same time.

Will there be many visitors?

Visitors to any ambulance station are minimal and are generally SAAS staff or volunteers.

Vehicles

Where will staff park their vehicles?

Each station will have an ambulance garage and ample off-street parking spaces for staff based at the station. From time to time, some staff attending training may need to park outside and will be required to comply with council parking requirements.

What vehicle movements will there be?

The main vehicle movements will be staff arriving and departing at the start and end of their shifts, and ambulances and other SAAS vehicles departing and returning to the station. Ambulances may not return to the station during a shift, instead going from one case to the next.

Traffic management is an important part of the design of an ambulance station and includes features such as Keep Clear zones with flashing lights to expedite ambulance departures, or the capacity to control the nearest traffic lights.

Noise

Will I hear sirens if I live near a station?

There will be occasions when ambulances need to depart their station using sirens to quickly get to emergencies like cardiac arrests where even short delays decrease the chances of survival or effective recovery.

However, sirens are not used for all departures, only for urgent cases.

In addition, most of our dispatches occur when ambulances are not on station, but already out in the community.

Traffic control features – such as Keep Clear zones and traffic light control – help to minimise the noise impact from sirens by expediting ambulance departures.

Why do ambulances have to drive at speed with lights and sirens?

In a medical emergency such as a cardiac arrest, every minute counts and any delay can decrease a patient's chances of survival or quality of recovery, so it's essential that paramedics reach these patients as soon as possible.

Is there a public address system which will be heard in the surrounding area?

No, ambulance stations do not have public address systems. Paramedics are contacted by hand-held radios and pagers.

Facilities

Will patients be brought to these stations?

No. If a patient requires transport, they are taken to a medical facility.

How will the environment be affected?

Medical waste is mostly left at hospitals although there are also designated medical waste bins at our stations which are regularly emptied by a specialist contractor.

Ambulance vehicles are generally washed at commercial car wash facilities.

The architecture of the stations has been designed with environmental sustainability and the local landscape in mind.

Each station will be equipped with solar panels and the external features and façade will incorporate materials to complement the surrounding area. Station landscaping will also be designed to complement the surrounding area.

Can I go to the station if I have an emergency?

No. Always call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency. There may be times when stations are not attended.

More information

Website: <https://saambulance.sa.gov.au/about-us/operational-growth-plan/>

Email: Health.SAASNewBuilds@sa.gov.au.

Planning and permit issues: Please contact your local Council.

