

News Release Minister Gail Gago

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Minister for Forests
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for the Status of Women
Minister for State/Local Government Relations

Friday, 17 May 2013

Bridge named in honour of Joy Baluch AM

Minister for State Local Government Relations Gail Gago will lead a ceremony in Port Augusta today naming the Spencer Gulf bridge crossing on Augusta Highway in honour of former Mayor Joy Baluch AM.

“The naming of this bridge brings another lasting legacy of the irreplaceable former Port Augusta City Council Mayor Nancy Joy Baluch AM,” Ms Gago said.

“Joy Baluch's time as mayor will forever stand as testament to her strength, her intelligence and her commitment to her community. I am sure history will remember her as one of the great female leaders we have seen.

“Joy was never shy about speaking up and never held back when working towards getting the best for her community. You always knew exactly where you stood with Joy and exactly what she wanted from you: the list was always extensive.

“As Australia's longest serving female mayor, who served her community in Local Government for more than 30 years, her contribution cannot be forgotten.

“Ms Baluch fought fiercely for the Upper Spencer Gulf region and was renowned for her passionate approach in driving her community and its economic and regional development.

“It is this passion and her achievements that resulted in Ms Baluch being one of South Australia's best known political figures, and her being awarded the Order of Australia AM in 2007,” Ms Gago said.

“The State Government is proud to be able to recognise Ms Baluch's significant contributions, not just to her region, but to the state, in naming this bridge. The ceremony is even more timely with her unfortunate passing earlier this week.”

Minister Gago said the renamed bridge would serve as a lasting legacy in former Mayor Baluch's honour.

“The previously unnamed bridge spans the Spencer Gulf in Port Augusta, on the Augusta Highway, and appropriately connects the city and Ms Baluch with the city she loved so much.”