

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Watson Street –  
Hume Freeway Interchange

## WATSON STREET INTERCHANGE UPGRADE

JULY 2025



We're upgrading the Watson Street Interchange to improve access, reduce congestion and travel times, and provide safer journeys.

### Overview

Planning work is continuing for the Watson Street Interchange Upgrade at the Hume Freeway in Wallan as we move towards construction.

The project will add an outbound exit ramp and an inbound entry ramp on the Hume Freeway.

### Current status

The project business case was completed in mid-2024. It examined the upgrade in detail, helping us to understand environmental and social impacts, recommend a design, and identify the best delivery approach.

Since late 2024, we've built on this work by undertaking a range of site investigations and studies so we can make sure our designs and construction approach are best suited to local conditions.

These activities have included traffic modelling, environmental investigations and assessments, geotechnical and pavement testing, and obtaining the relevant planning approvals to help pave the way for construction.

### Next steps

Our planning work is continuing as we prepare for the start of construction in late 2025.

We'll conduct further site investigations along Watson Street and nearby areas, gathering detailed information about ground conditions and soil quality so we can develop a detailed design for the upgrade.

From mid-2025 until late 2025, we'll:

- continue environmental investigations to further understand how flora and fauna might be impacted
- refine our design and develop plans to reduce and mitigate impacts on the environment
- ensure that Aboriginal cultural heritage is recognised and safeguarded
- continue to locate essential underground services including gas, water, drainage, electricity and telecommunications
- appoint a construction partner
- start early works, including site establishment and underground service relocation and protection.

We'll provide you with more information about construction timelines as planning progresses.



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New traffic lights



Upgrade area

For illustrative purposes only,  
design subject to change.



Not to scale



## How you'll benefit

The Watson Street Interchange Upgrade represents one of the largest transport infrastructure investments in Melbourne's north. During construction, the project is expected to create approximately 1,100 jobs. The project will:



### Enhance transport efficiency

- Provide direct freeway access north to Wallan and south to Melbourne
- Reduce congestion and improve travel times by streamlining vehicle movements



### Meet current and future community needs

- Improve traffic flow at the interchange
- Pave the way for future road upgrades



### Improve road safety

- Minimise conflicting vehicle movements at the interchange
- Enhance safety for all road users



### Enhance community wellbeing

- Foster connected and healthier communities by improving access to sustainable transport options.

## Project timeline



### November 2022

- Victorian Government announces up to \$130 million in funding, inclusive of \$50 million Australian Government funding announced in 2019



### 2023 to 2024

- Planning commences, including development of the project business case
- Business and community engagement
- Business case complete



### Late 2024 to early 2025

- Additional Australian Government funding of \$40 million announced
- Planning and site investigations continue



### Mid-2025 to early 2026

- Appoint construction partner
- Start early works
- Start major works

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