

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WESTERN FREEWAY UPGRADE BETWEEN MELTON AND CAROLINE SPRINGS

FEBRUARY 2025



We're planning for an upgrade of the Western Freeway between Melton and Caroline Springs to improve safety, freeway access and road capacity to help accommodate growing demand.

Melbourne's western region is one of the fastest growing in Australia and is experiencing significant congestion.

The Western Freeway is a critical road link and every single day approximately 86,000 vehicles travel the stretch between Melton and Caroline Springs, with this figure expected to rise to approximately 113,000 by 2031.

Planning and development

In early 2023, planning and development work commenced to inform the Western Freeway Upgrade.

Options explored to upgrade the Western Freeway between Harkness Road and Christies Road include:

- additional road lanes
- new interchanges and overpasses
- upgrades to existing interchanges
- upgrades to walking and cycling paths
- traffic signal and street lighting improvements
- public transport priority facilities.

Development work completed includes preliminary traffic modelling, community engagement, land and soil investigations, flood modelling, environmental investigations and economic assessments. This has helped us to understand the possible environmental and social impacts and evaluate the project's value.

Our planning for the Western Freeway Upgrade considered developments currently in planning or construction in the local area. This helped us understand the future demand this will place on the freeway.

In late 2024, a business case was completed, which provides a detailed examination of the freeway upgrade to inform government decision making.



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Next steps

Detailed planning work is progressing.

Key activities include:

- refining the design of the potential upgrade
- detailed traffic analysis and modelling, to further understand the future growth of the area and the demand this will place on the freeway
- on-site investigations to further test ground conditions
- flood modelling to understand project design impacts to the current flow of water
- environmental investigations to better understand flora, fauna and tree species
- investigations to map utilities services
- determining how sections of the upgrade could be staged for construction.

This project is currently in the planning phase and will inform government decisions on funding.

Benefits



Improve capacity to accommodate growing demand



Improve freeway access



Improve road safety



Reduce traffic congestion



Improve travel times



Create more reliable journeys for road users



Improve cycling and walking connections

Project timeline



Oct 2022

The Australian Government committed \$10m in funding in the 2022/23 Federal Budget to complete a business case



Nov 2022

The Victorian Government committed \$10m in funding in the 2022/23 Federal Budget to complete a business case



Early 2023 to 2024

Business case development



Jun 2023

Technical investigations and environmental surveys commenced



11 Nov to 3 Dec 2023

Community and business engagement



Dec 2024

Business case completed



Current

Detailed planning work continues

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