



## WESTERN HIGHWAY DUPLICATION

# PROJECT BENEFITS



The Victorian and Australian Government has invested \$672 million for the Western Highway Upgrade between Ballarat and Stawell, including construction between Buangor to Ararat, to meet the demands of a growing population.

The Western Highway is the major road link between Melbourne and Adelaide. Farming, grain production, regional tourism and a range of manufacturing services rely heavily on this highway.

More than 6000 vehicles travel the Western Highway west of Ballarat each day, including 1500 trucks. This traffic is expected to double by 2025.

There have been more than 100 crashes and 11 fatalities on the Western Highway between Ballarat and Stawell in recent years.

To date 55km has been duplicated between Ballarat and Buangor.

The 12.5km duplication alignment between Buangor and Ararat is the next stage of construction and will include:

- Two lanes in each direction.
- New bridges over the railway line and Hopkins River.
- An interchange at Hillside Road, with entry and exit ramps.

[roadprojects.vic.gov.au](http://roadprojects.vic.gov.au)

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





# Project benefits

## Safety

The existing highway between Ballarat and Stawell has remained largely unchanged in some locations for many years. However, the total traffic volumes and proportion of heavy vehicles have significantly increased, especially in recent times, which are contributing to a higher crash rate.

The Western Highway duplication is increasing the safety and journey reliability. Several design features proposed that will increase safety include:

- two lanes in each direction
- separation of opposing traffic lanes with a central median
- use of wire rope and other barriers to separate traffic
- bypassing the townships of Buangor and Great Western
- and, providing adequate rest stops.

Based on historical data, the project is expected to deliver a significant reduction in casualty crashes.

## Transport efficiency

The Western Highway currently supports a variety of vehicles, ranging from tourist traffic and commuter traffic to large B-double trucks.

Over 20 years, the total traffic volumes along the Western Highway between Ballarat and Stawell increased by approximately 47 per cent.

The combination of the rise in overall traffic, the increase in proportion of heavy vehicles and the reduction of speed limits in various locations (as a measure to improve road safety) means that journey reliability between Ballarat and Stawell has been impacted.

This is impacting the operating cost and travel time reliability for the freight industry and other users of the highway.

By duplicating the Western Highway, journey reliability and travel safety will improve due to:

- continuous overtaking opportunities
- higher posted speed limit of 110 km/h
- and addition of overpasses to remove dangerous intersections.

Improved efficiency will benefit all road users including freight, public transport and emergency services.

The duplication will also increase highway capacity, from an estimated 2500 vehicles per hour to around 4100 vehicles per hour based on the traffic and transport assessment conducted during the Environment Effects Statement (EES). These upgrades will ensure an efficient safe road well into the future.

## Economic benefits

The regional economy is based primarily on agriculture and tourism. An economic impact assessment, conducted as part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) found that the upgrade would enhance connections for the agricultural industry with a large number of B-double trucks using the Western Highway to connect with the Port of Melbourne.

The duplication will also provide a safer and more efficient movement of people which is expected to create a positive outcome for the region's tourism industry, in particular for Great Western due to the diversion of freight and other heavy vehicles out of the town centre. This will improve the safety and amenity of the town encouraging more people to visit.

## CONTACT US

contact@roadprojects.vic.gov.au  
1800 105 105

Major Road Projects Victoria  
GPO Box 4509, Melbourne VIC 3001

Follow us on social media



@roadprojectsvic



For languages other than English,  
please call 9209 0147.

Please contact us if you would like this information in an accessible format.

If you need assistance because of a hearing or speech impairment, please visit [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)