

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WESTERN FREEWAY UPGRADE BETWEEN MELTON AND CAROLINE SPRINGS

NOVEMBER 2023



We're undertaking planning and development work on behalf of the Victorian and Australian governments to investigate potential options to upgrade the Western Freeway.

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.

Status

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

Options being 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.

Planning and development

Our planning work includes traffic modelling, engineering designs, constructability assessments, economic modelling, community engagement and environmental investigations.

This will give us a complete picture of the area, allow us to understand environmental and social impacts, develop project options, and confirm scope and costs of the different options.

Planning will also take into consideration the Precinct Structure Plans developed for the area as well as residential estate developments currently in planning or construction in the local area that will have an impact on the demand for the freeway.



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Technical investigations

To help inform our planning, roadside technical investigations will occur. At times, we may need to implement traffic control measures, including temporary lane closures, stop/slow traffic and set speeds.

We'll keep traffic disruption to a minimum and avoid busy periods.

Business case

A business case is currently being developed and our planning work is expected to be complete in late 2024.

The business case will provide a detailed examination of the potential upgrade to help inform government decision-making.

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



October 2022

- The Australian Government committed \$10m in funding to complete a business case



November 2022

- The Victorian Government committed \$10m in funding to complete a business case



2023 to 2024

- Business case planning and development



June 2023

- Technical investigations and environmental surveys commenced



11 November to 3 December 2023

- Community and business engagement



Late 2024

- Business case complete

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