

# Western Freeway Upgrade and Safety Improvements - Rockbank to Melton

PROJECT LOCATION: Western Freeway, between Rockbank and Melton

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Access restoration between Rockbank and Melton



## Importance of project

The Western Freeway carries high volumes of commuter, freight and tourist traffic. It is the principal road link between Melbourne and Adelaide and provides vital access to regional and metropolitan areas.

The traffic volume in this area is approximately 50,000 vehicles per day. This project would remove inappropriate unrestricted at-grade access and improve safety and efficiency for traffic flow on this section of the corridor.

### Freight benefits (capacity, efficiency and reliability)

The project would improve the efficiency and reliability of travel along the Melbourne to Adelaide Corridor. This project would provide sufficient and safe access for the high volume of passengers and freight vehicles that use this corridor, while also alleviating congestion and reducing crashes.

### Other benefits (safety, amenity and environmental)

Between 2000 and 2004 there have been 38 casualty crashes on the Western Freeway between Rockbank and Melton of which 6 were fatalities. This project would remove inappropriate unrestricted at-grade access and improve safety and efficiency for traffic flow on this section of the corridor.

## Why the Commonwealth should fund this project

This busy section of the highway is an important part of the AusLink National Network between Melbourne and Adelaide. With much of the freight transported on the highway comprising exports shipped through the Ports of Melbourne and Adelaide – or inputs to exports manufactured in the two cities – the project would deliver significant national freight and industry benefits, as well as enhancing safety and amenity for local residents.