

Calder Highway Interchange - Calder Alternative Route, Ravenswood

PROJECT LOCATION: Calder Highway - Calder Alt Route Intersection at Ravenswood

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Upgrade the Calder Highway – Calder Alternative Route Intersection

Importance of project

Many long distance freight vehicles bypass Bendigo via the Calder Alternative Highway, between Ravenswood and Marong. This section of the Calder Highway carries 12,500 vehicles per day including 12 per cent commercial vehicles. Traffic volumes on the Calder Alt at this intersection are approximately 2,000 vehicles per day.

The existing at-grade intersection is in a 100km/h zone and suffers from poor geometry and alignment which results in poor sight distances and increased safety concerns. Presently trucks heading south (i.e. towards Melbourne) are required to be stored in the median to access the Calder Highway.

When making a right hand turn, storage is limited to one heavy vehicle and the line of sight is impaired. High traffic volumes limit access to the south-bound carriageways, particularly for heavy vehicles. This will only worsen as traffic volumes increase.

Freight benefits (capacity, efficiency and reliability)

The project would provide improved access for freight vehicles using the Calder Alternative Highway.

Other benefits (safety, amenity and environmental)

Safety and travel times would also be improved. In addition, the project would improve connectivity from northern Victoria and southern New South Wales to Melbourne.

Why the Commonwealth should fund this project

The Calder Highway is a key part of the AusLink National Network and a vital strategic link in Victoria's road network. The highway carries a high volume of freight, business, commuter and tourist traffic between Melbourne, Bendigo and Mildura. Delivery of this project would reduce bottlenecks along this important corridor and provide substantial freight, transport and cost benefits to communities and industries in some of Victoria's largest regional centres.