



## Goulburn Valley Highway – Shepparton Bypass

PROJECT LOCATION: Shepparton

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Goulburn Valley Highway Shepparton Bypass

### Importance of project

The Goulburn Valley Highway forms part of the AusLink Melbourne – Brisbane corridor. This important north-south freight link serves the Goulburn Valley, one of Australia's major agricultural and food processing regions. With strong population growth forecast for the region over the next 25 years, improvements are needed to the highway to manage higher volumes of freight and higher levels of commercial traffic, address capacity pressures and improve safety.

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

Along with the proposed Nagambie Bypass and Strathmerton Deviation, the project would improve the efficiency and reliability of travel along the Melbourne – Brisbane corridor and through the Goulburn Valley region.

The Shepparton Bypass (40km in length) would improve the level of service for commercial traffic along the highway (total traffic volumes are 6,600 vehicles per day, of which 22 per cent are commercial vehicles), while also relieving congestion in Shepparton and Kialla West and reducing crashes.

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

The project would enhance amenity for local residents as a result of less through traffic in Shepparton. Safety would also be improved along this section of the highway. There would also be improved access to the Murray and Riverina regions of Echuca and Hay.

### Why the Commonwealth should fund this project

The project would enhance freight efficiency by removing a significant bottleneck along the major Melbourne – Brisbane corridor. It would improve the international competitiveness of food processing companies and industries in the Shepparton, New South Wales Riverina/ Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area region, as well as enhancing safety and amenity in Shepparton and outlying satellite towns.