

# Calder Freeway Safety and Capacity Improvements - Western Ring Road to Diggers Rest

PROJECT LOCATION: Western Ring Road to Diggers Rest

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Access management of the duplicated sections of the corridor to improve road safety, efficiency of traffic flow and ensure that the road operates at a full Freeway standard, particularly between the Western Ring Road and Diggers Rest



## Importance of project

The section of the Calder Highway between Keilor and Diggers Rest experiences high traffic volumes (in excess of 50,000 vehicles per day) and provides access to growing residential and commercial areas.

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

The project would provide improved local access to growing suburbs to the south of the freeway and establish a major regional road link between the Calder Freeway, Melton Highway and the Western Highway (AusLink corridor). Improvements to traffic flows in the Taylors Lakes area would improve freight efficiency between Melbourne, Bendigo, Mildura and Western NSW. The project would also reduce delays and improve freight efficiency on the Melton Highway which connects to the Western Highway.

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

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in crashes on the section of the Calder Freeway between the Melton Highway and Holden Road, with more than half of the crashes resulting in fatalities and serious injuries. Improvements delivered through the project have the potential to significantly reduce fatalities and crashes along this section of the freeway.

## 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.

The Commonwealth Government has contributed to the Calder Freeway extension and the Victorian Government has applied for funding for the Kings Road interchange. 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.