

Princes Freeway East Upgrade and Safety Improvements – Nar Nar Goon to Longwarry North

PROJECT LOCATION: Princes Freeway East, Sands Road interchange and Access Restoration between Nar Nar Goon and Longwarry North

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Sands Road interchange and Access Restoration between Nar Nar Goon and Longwarry North

Importance of project

The Princes Freeway/Highway is duplicated for most of the distance between Melbourne and Traralgon. However the freeway passes through areas where speed restrictions and delays are experienced. These projects would remove inappropriate unrestricted at-grade access and improve safety and efficiency for traffic flow on the duplicated sections of the corridor and allow the road to operate to freeway conditions.

Freight benefits (capacity, efficiency and reliability)

Traffic volumes are in the vicinity of 17,000 vehicles per day with approximately 10 per cent commercial vehicles. These projects would provide sufficient and safe access for the high load of passengers and freight vehicles that use this corridor.

Other benefits (safety, amenity and environmental)

Between 2000 and 2004 there were 79 crashes on the Princes Freeway East, between Nar Nar Goon and Longwarry. Seven of these were fatalities.

Why the Commonwealth should fund this project

The Princes Freeway/Highway East is the primary connection between Gippsland and Melbourne and the Port of Melbourne. These projects would improve freight efficiency on the Melbourne – Sale corridor, enhance safety and amenity along the corridor, and deliver major benefits to the diverse range of industries that depend upon the freeway for access to inputs and domestic and export markets.