

# Take the easy way – take the Freeway



**DRIVER AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF USING THE WEST GATE  
FREEWAY AND BOLTE BRIDGE FOR NIGHT JOURNEYS TO AND  
FROM MELBOURNE PORTS AND RAIL FREIGHT TERMINALS**

**"Using the Freeway is a great opportunity to generate more awareness of driving as a responsible profession" – Philip Lovel, VTA**

## Introduction

Melbourne's inner west is very important to Melbourne's Ports and Rail Freight Terminals and is also home to around 150,000 people. The freight industry makes a significant contribution to the Victorian and national economies and is an important employment generator.

However, truck traffic in areas such as Yarraville can have a negative effect on the residential environment, especially at night.

Some drivers use routes in Yarraville rather than the West Gate Freeway and Bolte Bridge when travelling to and from Melbourne Ports and Rail Freight Terminals. Concerns expressed by drivers about taking the Freeway relate to the City Link toll and the perception that this route will take longer.

This brochure shows that the West Gate Freeway/Bolte Bridge route enables truck operators to travel to and from the Ports and Rail Freight Terminals via a safe, quick and easy route without impacting on residents in the Yarraville area, and therefore enhance their reputation in the community.



## BENEFITS OF USING THE FREEWAY SYSTEM

### A community-friendly route

Yarraville residents are very concerned about the speed of trucks through their area and the noise and exhaust emissions.

Engine brakes or 'Jacobs' brakes in particular are often identified as generating unacceptable levels of noise, as are noisy trailers and loose fittings such as twist locks.

You can help people in Yarraville sleep easy. It's as simple as using the West Gate Freeway and Bolte Bridge at night for journeys to and from the Ports, and by doing what many professional and responsible drivers do – keep your fittings maintained and turn off your engine brakes or use them only if it's absolutely necessary in residential areas.

### A path to good practice

Australia's freight industry continues to move towards more responsible, community-friendly practice and many operators and drivers are striving to develop a more professional image.

"With community members expressing concerns about the effect of truck traffic on their wellbeing, drivers and operators have an opportunity to further enhance their professionalism by improving their reputation in the community," says the

Executive Director of the Victorian Transport Association (VTA), Mr Philip Lovel.

"The West Gate Freeway/Bolte Bridge route is an easy, high quality route for drivers accessing the Ports area at night, and has the added benefit of not annoying residents, particularly at night when they're trying to sleep.

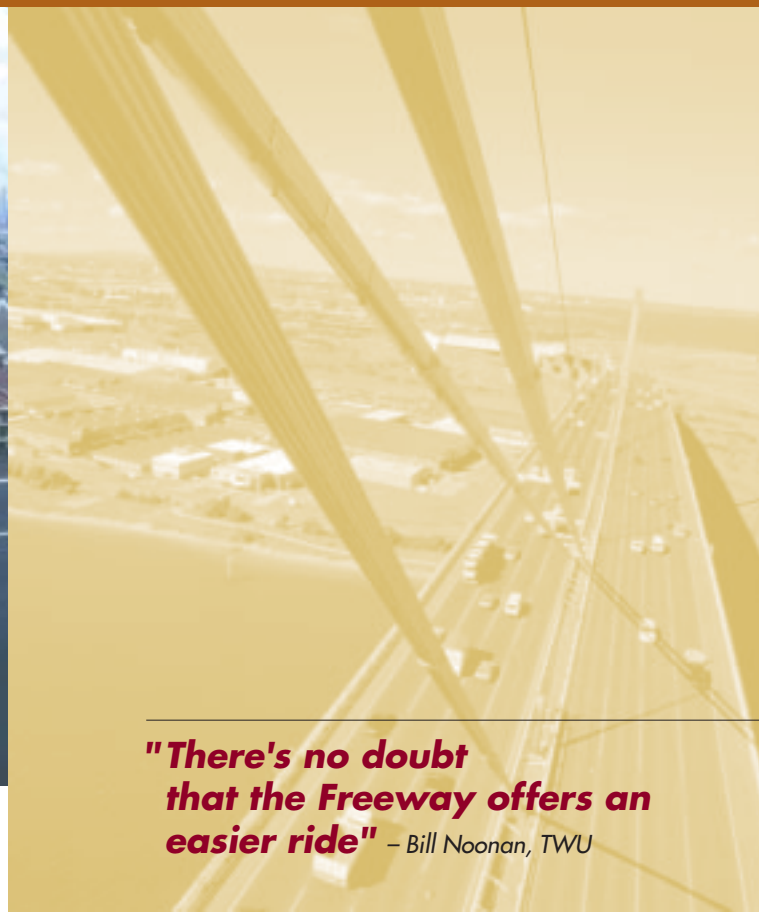
"We see increased use of the Freeway for Ports and Rail Freight Terminal access as a great opportunity to generate more awareness of driving as a responsible profession by improving our standing in the community," he said.

### An easier journey

Key aspects of the design and operation of the West Gate Freeway and Bolte Bridge provide ideal conditions for truck operators, including:

- Minimal traffic signals or intersections, which reduces engine and brake wear and enables free flowing traffic, particularly at night
- Multiple lanes, allowing easy manoeuvring and access
- A high quality road surface, improving ride and driver comfort

# the easy way – take the Freeway



***"There's no doubt that the Freeway offers an easier ride"*** – Bill Noonan, TWU

"We encourage operators to use routes like the West Gate Freeway which provide better driving conditions," says Bill Noonan, Secretary of the Transport Workers' Union (Vic).

"Driver health and wellbeing is paramount and there's no doubt that the Freeway offers an easier ride," he said.

The Freeway's an easy route for drivers – and it's easy on residents too.

## **A quicker journey**

With the freeway providing free flowing operating conditions and convenient access, freight operators have achieved travel time savings by taking this route rather than travelling through Yarraville.

The VTA also recognises the benefits of taking the Freeway to travel between the west and the Ports.

"The West Gate Freeway/Bolte Bridge is quicker than roads through Yarraville for night journeys between the Ports and Rail Freight Terminals," said Philip Lovel.

"The VTA is always keen to help its members find ways to optimise their operating dollar. The Freeway can offer considerable cost savings through reduced travel times, fewer

maintenance costs, reduced accident exposure and improved fuel efficiency," he said.

The VTA's recognition of the benefits of this route is reinforced by recent research that indicates that drivers can cut their travel times by taking the West Gate Freeway/Bolte Bridge when travelling at night between the Ports and areas in Melbourne's west, in some instances by up to 25 per cent.

A recent night-time travel study commissioned by VicRoads compared truck travel times on the West Gate Bridge and Bolte Bridge route with travel times on routes through Yarraville.

The study was conducted on a weeknight between 10pm and 6am and measured the travel time for trucks travelling between Footscray Road and the Millers Road/West Gate Freeway interchange (see map on back page). It found that:

- Drivers can cut their travel time by 25 per cent by using the Western Link and West Gate Freeway to travel between Footscray Road and many destinations west and south of the West Gate Freeway/Millers Road interchange.
- The travel time from the Ports and Rail Freight Terminals to Francis Street West via the Bolte Bridge and West Gate Freeway is just as fast as travelling via Whitehall Street and Francis Street East.

# Recommended routes between inner west and Ports

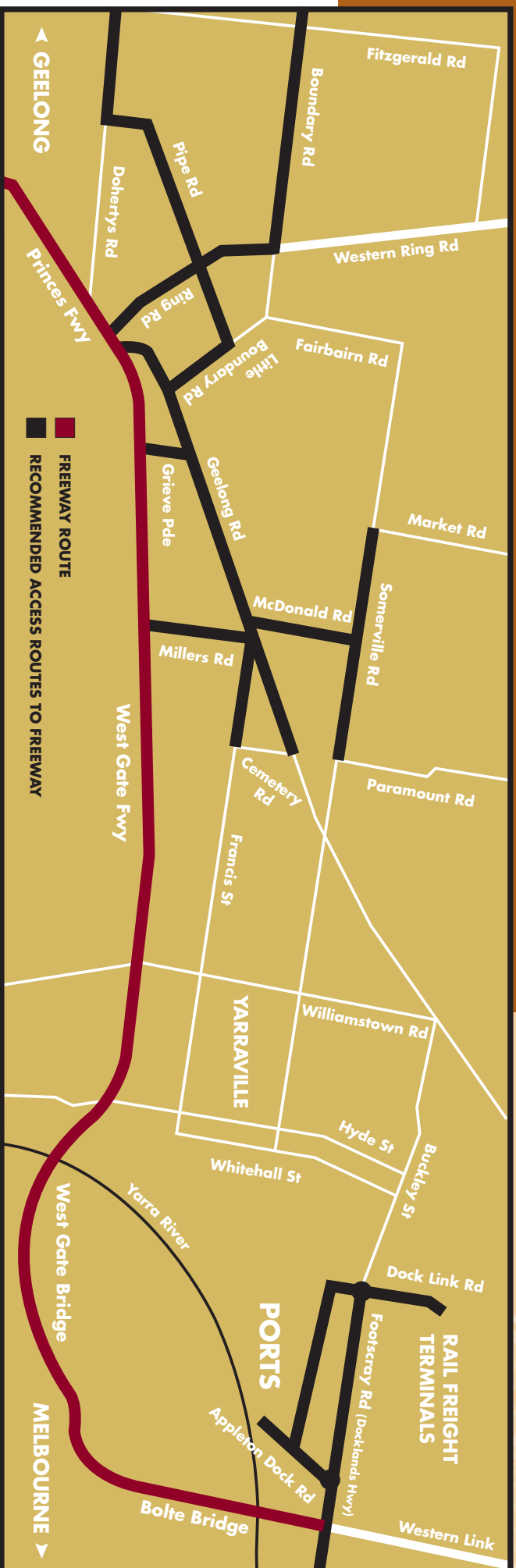
The map indicates the recommended routes for travelling between the inner west and Melbourne Ports and Rail Freight Terminals.

All recommended routes provide excellent operating conditions for truck drivers, with good access available via multi-lane on and off ramps and improved intersections and traffic signals.

You can take it easy – on yourself and the community.

Reduce your travel times and improve living conditions for residents by using the West Gate Freeway and Bolte Bridge at night when travelling to or from Melbourne Ports and Rail Freight Terminals.

***"The West Gate Freeway/  
Bolte Bridge is quicker at  
night than roads through  
Yarraville"*** – Philip Lovel, VTA



## Comparison of truck travel times

Appleton Dock Rd/Footscray Rd to Westgate Freeway/Millers Rd

Via West Gate Freeway/Western Link (cut 25% off travel time) ..... 8 minutes

Via Footscray Rd/Whitehall St/Somerville Rd/Geelong Rd/Millers Rd .... 11 minutes

Via Footscray Rd/Whitehall St/Francis St/West Gate Freeway ..... 11 minutes