



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Roads and Ports

Thursday, 3 December, 2009

\$11 MILLION FOR TRUCK REDUCTION PLAN IN THE WEST

An \$11 million funding boost will kick start the Brumby Labor Government's Truck Action Plan to remove trucks from local roads in the western suburbs as part of the \$38 billion *Victorian Transport Plan*.

Roads and Ports Minister Tim Pallas today announced \$11 million for the planning investigation for the first stage of the Truck Action Plan, including preconstruction planning and early works on Shepherd Bridge in Yarraville.

"We understand that people are concerned about trucks on our roads, which is why the Brumby Labor Government is building a better transport system and taking trucks off residential streets," Mr Pallas said.

"The Truck Action Plan is a vital project that will create an alternative route for freight to access the Port of Melbourne, away from residential areas.

"VicRoads has already begun planning investigations for the first stage of the plan, which is estimated to cost \$380 million and will create a freight corridor from the West Gate Freeway along Hyde and Whitehall Streets and across Shepherd Bridge to the port precinct.

"Implementation of the Truck Action Plan will remove thousands of trucks from inner west suburban streets."

Mr Pallas said VicRoads was currently looking into route options, concept designs, technical studies and associated analysis.

"Part of this work includes a consultation process with residents and business, which has already had a significant impact on the investigations," he said.

"With completion of the planning investigation, work will start on detailed design, preconstruction investigations and early construction work on Shepherd Bridge. The bridge strengthening will increase its capacity to carry heavy loads of up to 110 tonne well into the future."

Member for Footscray Marsha Thomson and Member for Williamstown Wade Noonan said the funding boost was an indication of the Brumby Labor Government's commitment to the Truck Action Plan and moving trucks off local roads.

"This project is only one part of an integrated response to the transport challenges in the western suburbs, which includes road, rail and land planning solutions," Ms Thomson said.

"The funding is a great result for communities in Melbourne's west, with this project to play an important role in reducing traffic congestion and improving our way of life," Mr Noonan said.

The Truck Action Plan is a key project in the Victorian Government's Infrastructure Australia submission. More information can be found at www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/truckactionplan