

Maribyrnong Cleaner Freight Initiative

“Promoting Cleaner and Safer Communities”

What is the Maribyrnong Cleaner Freight Initiative?

The Maribyrnong Cleaner Freight Initiative is a proposal developed between the Victorian Transport Association (VTA) and Maribyrnong Truck Action Group (MTAG). It is a ground-breaking initiative that has brought together traditionally opposed parties to see road freight improvements for industry and community in the City of Maribyrnong. The initiative will lessen the impact of trucks on residents and provide a transition framework for the freight industry leading up to the opening of the West Gate Tunnel Project in 2022 when there will be 24/7 truck bans on most existing freight routes in Maribyrnong.

The Initiative will encourage freight operators to upgrade to cleaner more modern trucks by providing additional access hours on local roads for trucks with EuroV compliant engines. EuroV compliant trucks are less polluting, quieter and safer in terms of braking capabilities than pre-EuroV trucks.

In return, the Initiative will see:

- Reduced access hours on local roads for older more polluting trucks
- Additional truck curfews on Buckley Street and Williamstown Road
- Reduced speed limits on all freight routes in the City of Maribyrnong to 50kmh
- Roadworks to remediate areas of high risk and noise
- Requirements for all trucks to have emissions control technology, such as exhaust gas recirculation
- Requirements for trucks carrying dangerous goods to display conspicuous visibility markings
- Access certification and education for all truck drivers, covering freight routes, height limits and bridges, speed zones, bicycle routes, curfews and school crossing times, and noise abatement
- Enforcement improvements using technology such as GPS

Who are the VTA and MTAG?

The VTA (Victorian Transport Association) is the peak transport body in Victoria representing the freight industry. The VTA represents over 800 employers that supply transport, logistics and freight related services. MTAG (Maribyrnong Truck Action Group) is a non-political, unfunded community resident group in the City of Maribyrnong. MTAG represents residents, parents, children, professionals, tradespeople and retirees, to advocate for a reduction in the number of trucks on residential streets in Melbourne’s inner west.

Read more here: www.mtag.org.au www.vta.com.au

What does the Initiative hope to achieve?

The Initiative aims to give certainty, and provide a transitional framework, for the freight industry leading up to the opening of the West Gate Tunnel Project. This new tollway will provide direct freeway access to the Port of Melbourne for the first time. Its opening will see the introduction of comprehensive 24/7 trucks bans on most freight routes in the City of Maribyrnong. This will be the biggest overnight change ever experienced by the freight industry in Melbourne.

For residents, the Initiative will help lessen the impact of the 22,000 trucks that use the residential streets of Maribyrnong every day while the West Gate Tunnel Project is being completed.

Freight operators will be encouraged to upgrade to cleaner more modern trucks by extending access hours for those trucks by one hour, while reducing access for older, higher emitting trucks by two hours per day. Higher emitting trucks will also have their Saturday morning access reduced by two hours.

A night and weekend curfew will be introduced on Buckley Street between Hyde Street and Geelong Road and on Williamstown Road between Francis Street and Geelong Road.

Restrictions for higher emitting trucks would be tightened after two years, with access hours for both weekdays and weekends further reduced, including a weekend ban for higher-emitting trucks on Somerville Road.

Why is the Initiative needed?

The City of Maribyrnong has some of the worst air pollution in Australia. The community has been lobbying for restrictions on trucks movements on residential streets for close to 20 years to improve air quality. During that time, the only real limitations on trucks movements have been night and weekend curfews on Francis Street, Somerville Road and Moore Street.

The freight industry has faced the brunt of community action over this period. These business owners and employers need certainty and have a right to go about their day-to-day activities, which ultimately benefits everyone in the state. Many operators have been doing their best to minimise their impacts on the community by using cleaner trucks, observing curfews and operating as safely as they can.

It's been estimated that 50 per cent of the trucks driving in Australian cities are older trucks with no pollution controls or exhaust emission standards. (Truck Industry Council) These trucks are much more polluting than modern trucks, in fact one pre-1996 truck engine emits the same amount of diesel particulate matter as sixty post-2007 trucks of a similar size and power engine. Unlike many other cities and countries around the world, there have been no programs here to encourage truck owners to upgrade.

This initiative will reward those operators that are doing the right thing and penalise those that are not, leading to an improvement in safety and amenity for the community.

What will this Initiative mean for residents?

This will be the first time in Australia that steps have been taken to modernize the trucking fleet. Nowhere is this needed more than in the City of Maribyrnong. The operations of the Port of Melbourne will continue to impact this community, but steps to modernize the trucking fleet will create lasting change. This is especially important as the port grows over the coming decades.

For residents on Buckley Street and Williamstown Road, the new curfews will be ground breaking, leading to a vast decrease in night time noise and improved weekend amenity. For residents living on roads with existing curfews, there will be a decrease in noise and pollution as cleaner EuroV trucks are rewarded. While the overall number of trucks will stay the same, the impact of the trucks should decrease. Access certification and education for all truck drivers will increase safety, reduce incidents like bridge strikes, and lessen the chances of trucks breaching curfews.

What will it mean for the freight industry?

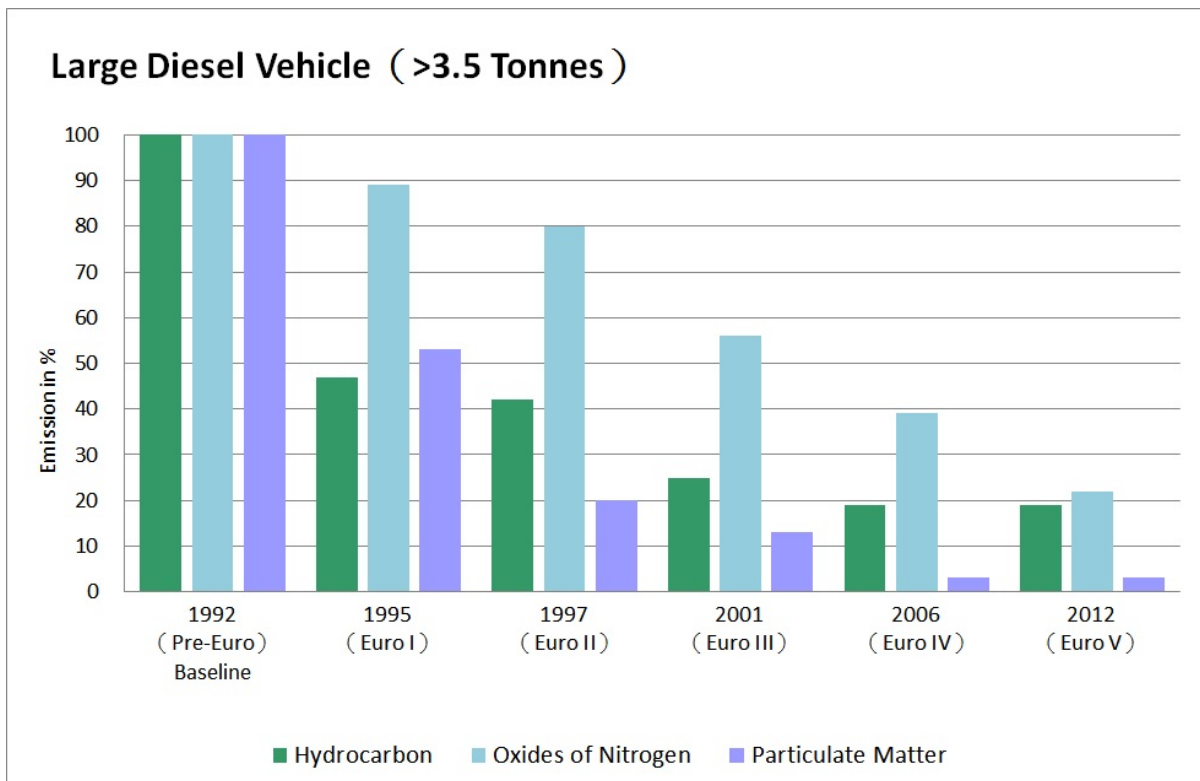
The Initiative will help the freight industry prepare for the permanent bans that will be introduced when the West Gate Tunnel opens. It will help to increase driver skills and training drivers and lead to more efficient vehicles, which will result in benefits for the broader community. It will lead to

cleaner, safer and more economical vehicle movements. And importantly, the Initiative will improve the relationship between industry and community.

How much cleaner is a EuroV compliant truck, will it really make a difference to our air?

Australia has one of the oldest truck fleets in the world, with an average age of 14.9 years. Around 26 per cent of trucks registered in Australia, and 50 per cent of the trucks driving in Australian cities, were built before 1996 and have no pollution controls. A EuroV compliant truck is vastly less polluting, emitting up to 95 per cent less particle emissions than a pre 1996 truck. (Truck Industry Council)

Further more Euro V trucks have improved safety features and produce less carbon emissions than older trucks.



*Source: Environmental Protection Department Hong Kong

What needs to happen to make the Initiative a reality?

The Initiative has been warmly received by Luke Donnellan, Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

Modest funding is needed for driver training, signage and enforcement.

Commitments from the City of Maribyrnong and VicRoads will make this initiative a reality and achieve real outcomes for both industry and community.