

# Media Release

**The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC**  
Minister for Roads  
Minister for Road Safety and the TAC  
Minister for Fishing and Boating



Tuesday, 9 June 2020

## **NEW MIDLAND HIGHWAY TECHNOLOGY TO WARN OF BLACK ICE**

A newly installed black ice detection and warning system will help to keep drivers safe on the Midland Highway near Ballarat in time for winter thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

The new system is part of a major safety upgrade on the Midland Highway between Ballarat and Creswick.

Installed near the intersection of the Midland Highway and Kennedys Road at Mount Rowan, the new warning system will help to prevent run-off-road and head-on collisions, making travel safer for thousands of drivers during colder weather.

The new warning system uses infrared cameras to monitor the road surface for the presence of water or ice, and remotely activates a warning light to alert drivers to potential hazards.

Black ice can pose a major danger to drivers in regional areas during the winter months, affecting their ability to steer and brake effectively.

If drivers do hit black ice, they should avoid any sudden steering or braking movements, and where possible should avoid travelling in the early hours of the morning with forecast sub-zero temperatures.

The new warning system comes on top of construction of a roundabout at Kennedys Road and the Midland Highway, which will make it easier and safer for drivers to travel through this busy intersection.

Other upgrades delivered as part of the \$14.5 million Midland Highway package include a new roundabout at the interchange of the Western and Midland highways, flexible roadside safety barriers, intersection upgrades, rumble strip line marking to alert drivers if they begin to veer from their lane, and improved line marking.

The upgrades to the Midland Highway are part of the Labor Government's \$1.4 billion investment in reducing road trauma, being delivered by Regional Roads Victoria in partnership with the TAC.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Roads and for Road Safety and the TAC Jaala Pulford**

*"The roads around Ballarat are prone to black ice, which is why we're investing in this technology to provide drivers travelling on the busy Midland Highway with warning when it is detected."*

*"It's part of a major package of upgrades we're delivering on the Midland Highway between Ballarat and Creswick to ensure this key route is safer."*

### **Quotes attributable to Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison**

*"We want everyone travelling around Ballarat to get where they need to go safely, which is why this new ice detection is so important."*

*"Everyone from Ballarat and it's surrounds know how tricky the conditions can be – I'm pleased we can now give drivers that extra bit of warning on the Midland Highway."*

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