

# Media Release

**The Hon Jacinta Allan MP**

Leader of the House

Minister for the Coordination of Transport – COVID-19

Minister for Transport Infrastructure

Minister for Suburban Rail Loop



Monday, 6 July 2020

## MAJOR ROAD AND RAIL INVESTMENT FOR GIPPSLAND

The Victorian Government is providing more than \$50 million for a major road upgrade as part of a huge transport boost from both Victoria and the Commonwealth to help Gippsland communities impacted by the summer's bushfires and coronavirus.

The final two sections of the Princes Highway East duplication at Flynn and Kilmany will soon get underway, adding an extra 12km of lanes in each direction and providing much-needed local jobs alongside improved infrastructure.

Once the project is complete in 2024, Princes Highway will be fully duplicated over the entire 43 kilometres between Traralgon and Sale, providing improved safety and shorter journey times for the 15,000 motorists who use this stretch of road every day.

The final tranche of the project will build on the improvements already made in the first nine sections, delivering a range of safety upgrades including wider shoulders and a centre median with flexible safety barriers to reduce the risk and severity of run-off road and head-on crashes.

With pre-construction activities already complete, procurement for these sections of the joint Victorian and Commonwealth \$253 million road project will be underway by the end of the year - improving freight efficiency and supporting the region's economic recovery.

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments will also provide a boost to the Gippsland Line Upgrade – creating 400 jobs in the region and getting the project a step closer to delivering more frequent and reliable services for Gippsland passengers.

The project will reduce congestion between Pakenham and Traralgon, increasing service reliability in an area that is a major cause of delays for citybound trains. A contractor will soon be appointed, with construction expected to begin later this year and targeted for completion in late 2022.

Across the state, the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have committed more than \$300 million in extra funding for the Regional Rail Revival – bringing the total investment to more than \$2 billion to upgrade every passenger rail line in regional Victoria, create 1000 jobs and boost local economies across Victoria.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan

*"We know it's been a very difficult year for Gippsland communities – this funding will help to boost the local economy and create jobs while building the transport infrastructure Gippslanders need."*

*"These important projects will provide safer, more reliable roads and train services for locals and tourists alike."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Jane Garrett

*"The Regional Rail Revival will enhance our regional economies, create local jobs and provide valuable opportunities for local suppliers as the state recovers from the coronavirus pandemic."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

*"The duplication of Princes Highway East will give local drivers a safer and faster trip across this important part of the state."*