

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Suburban Development



Tuesday, 19 July 2022

STUDY TO KEEP GRAIN SUPPLY CHAIN MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

The Andrews Labor Government is investing in a major new study to help keep the grain supply chain moving well into the future.

Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne today visited Portland to announce \$125,000 in funding for the Western Victoria Grain Industry Supply Chain Study.

The study will identify changes to production and the volume of grain likely to be harvested and transported over the next 25 years.

It will also assist in freight industry efficiencies and improve the competitiveness of the grain industry.

The SouthWest Victoria Alliance will deliver the project, along with local government, industry and input from the Department of Transport.

Modelled on the successful Dairy Supply Chain Study undertaken in 2018 – the study will also generate valuable, essential data and technical insight to plan for and manage the future needs of our road and rail freight network.

The role of rail in the grain industry supply chain will be considered, along with opportunities to increase its share in the freight task. Existing grain silos will also be mapped and examined while optimal locations for new ones will be identified together with sites that could benefit from additional intermodal hubs.

Other areas of focus will include projected routes, including transporting grain from farms to grain receival centres and viewing the supply chains from processing and manufacturing facilities to key export gateways.

The Labor Government's \$125,000 investment for the \$250,000 project is being funded through the Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program, which supports evidence-based transport and freight studies that can inform investment decisions leading to the more efficient movement of freight at local levels.

The remainder of funding for the project will come from Great South Coast, Wimmera Southern Mallee and Central Highlands Regional partnerships and associated Local Government Authorities in the region.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"We know how important the grain industry is, which is why we're investing in this study to keep the grain supply chain moving – not only now, but well into the future."

"The study will prove vital in developing a safer and stronger road and rail freight network, delivering long term freight efficiencies and benefits to the industry."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney

"Our investment in this study will deliver long-term freight efficiencies and benefits for the industry."