

# 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



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## INTERMODAL FREIGHT HUB WORKS BEGIN AT BWEZ

Early works are now underway to build an Intermodal Freight Hub at the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ).

The works will see five serviced lots built at the site – in preparation for major construction to take place on the freight hub next year.

The freight hub will form a critical part of BWEZ, which will drive jobs and economic growth in the region for the next 20 years.

It'll be constructed on the regional city's north-west fringe, adjacent to Ballarat Airport, the Western Freeway, existing broad-gauge rail infrastructure and the Ballarat Link Road – giving freight and logistics tenants access to road, rail and aviation infrastructure all from the one location.

Once complete, the freight hub will have the capacity to handle 24,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) per annum to be railed to port.

The terminal, adjacent to the broad-gauge Ballarat-Ararat rail line, will also have three rail sidings capable of accommodating 600m-long freight trains and a substantial concrete hardstand for the efficient loading, unloading and storage of export shipping containers.

Up to 300,000 tonnes of grain per annum is expected to be railed to the terminal where new and existing businesses at BWEZ will process the grain into product such as flour.

The \$23.5 million Intermodal Freight Hub is being delivered by the Victorian and Australian Governments – with the Victorian Government contributing \$14.4 million and the Australian Government \$9.1 million.

An expression of interest for an operator for the site will be released soon.

BWEZ is a \$30 million joint initiative between the Victorian Government and the City of Ballarat. The 438-hectare project is being delivered by Development Victoria on behalf of Regional Development Victoria.

### Quote attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

*"Ballarat West Employment Zone will become the engine room for jobs and economic growth in the region over the next 20 years – and the development of the Intermodal Freight Hub at the site is a great step forward to make this happen."*

*"This is another example of how we're putting the infrastructure in place to make rail freight more efficient – the Intermodal Freight Hub at the Ballarat West Employment Zone will make it easier to transport product to port, as well as drive jobs and economic growth in the region for years to come."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Harriet Shing

*"Our investment in this project will not only boost our freight network – but support local communities and create local jobs – and it's great to see early works now underway."*

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**Quote attributable to Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison**

*"These early works mark a milestone for the Ballarat region – and means the Intermodal Freight Hub is a step closer to being developed at the Ballarat West Employment Zone – which will make it easier to transport product and create more local jobs."*

**Quote attributable to Member for Buninyong Michaela Settle**

*"The Ballarat West Employment Zone will provide a huge benefit to the Ballarat region – and with the Intermodal Freight Hub it'll driving jobs and economic growth for years to come."*