

# Media Release

**The Hon Melissa Horne MP**

Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Friday, 20 October 2023

## MAJOR BALLARAT INTERCHANGE UPGRADE COMPLETE

A new roundabout at the intersection of the Western Freeway and Ballarat-Maryborough Road is now complete and will boost safety at the busy Miners Rest intersection.

The Allan Labor Government's crucial investment improves safety and makes sure the community is prepared for the residential and commercial growth in Ballarat's West.

The Labor Government has invested \$5.6 million to build a new roundabout at the interchange, with a new shared user path catering to pedestrians and cyclists also delivered as part of the upgrade.

Heavy traffic volumes, high speed and low visibility were key safety concerns at the interchange - the site of four crashes resulting in serious injury to seven people between 2015 and 2019.

The new roundabout will make the road safer for all road users, including the high number of truck drivers that rely on it every day. Roundabouts are one of the safest types of intersections because they slow the flow of traffic and guide vehicles in one direction, reducing the risk and severity of crashes.

The interchange connects the Western Freeway's on and off ramps to Ballarat-Maryborough Road, which carries approximately 13,000 vehicles a day.

Residential growth near the interchange and commercial development in the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ) have significantly increased traffic through the Western Freeway/Ballarad-Maryborough Road interchange.

The upgrade is crucial to reduce risk taking behaviour and ensure planned infrastructure is matched with areas of population growth and anticipated service demands.

This new roundabout will improve the quality of a major freight routes to BWEZ, resulting in reduced running costs and greater efficiencies for the industry.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne

*"We're delighted to finish this important upgrade for the people of Ballarat's West as we make the interchange safer for drivers, pedestrians and bike riders."*

*"We identified the Western Freeway/Ballarad-Maryborough Road interchange as a crucial connection for many – so this upgrade will provide massive benefits for the local community, with shared user path facilities and a new roundabout built for safer journeys."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Ripon Martha Haylett

*"We would like to thank the local community for their patience while we delivered this major upgrade which is all about catering to Ballarat's continued growth, particularly in the city's west."*