

# Media Release

**The Hon Jacinta Allan MP**  
Acting Premier  
Minister for Transport Infrastructure



**DELIVERING  
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Monday, 21 January 2019

## FIRST AUTOMATED VEHICLE TO HIT THE ROAD

Cutting-edge automated vehicle technology will be tested in rural Victoria this year in the first on-road trial approved under the new Automated Driving System (ADS) permit scheme.

Acting Premier Jacinta Allan today announced that Bosch has been awarded \$2.3 million from the *Connected and Automated Vehicle (CAV) Trial Grants Program* and granted the state's first ADS permit for on-road testing of highly automated driving systems.

Last year, Victoria finalised regulations to support the ADS permit scheme, which authorises the use of automated vehicles for testing and development on our roads.

Bosch is currently developing its automated vehicle technology and will begin testing on high-speed rural roads later in 2019. The aim of the Bosch trial is to use the state-of-the-art technology to improve safety on rural Victorian roads – where drivers are five times as likely to be killed in a crash than in metropolitan areas.

The testing will be conducted on roads that expose the automated vehicle to a range of different conditions including traffic, weather and infrastructure.

The \$9 million *Connected and Automated Vehicle Trial Grants Program* is funded through the Andrews Labor Government's \$1.4 billion *Towards Zero Action Plan*.

In late 2017, VicRoads called for expressions of interest from companies, industry bodies and other transport technology organisations to apply for funding to spur the development of these emerging technologies, which will lead to reduced deaths and serious injuries. Other successful applicants will be announced soon.

The trials will support Victoria's readiness for CAV technologies and the knowledge gained will provide a better understanding of the infrastructure required to get these vehicles on the road, maximising their safety benefits.

### Quotes attributable to Acting Premier Jacinta Allan

*"Victoria is leading the nation in the future of on-road technology and this trial is an exciting step towards driverless vehicles hitting the road."*

*"The tragic fact is that you're five times as likely to be killed on a rural road than in the city. That's why we're rolling out a record roads investment in rural Victoria – and this is another way we can improve safety and save lives."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Clarinda Meng Heang Tak

*"This is not only great news for road safety – but our local community also benefits with high skilled jobs and more investment."*

### Quote attributable to President, Bosch Australia Gavin Smith

*"Bosch is a proud leader in vehicle safety systems and is eager to commence this trial with technologies that will show how we can improve road safety and reduce road trauma on rural roads."*

**Media contact:** Hayley Bester 0424 753 775 | hayley.bester@minstaff.vic.gov.au