

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Roads

Minister for Road Safety and the TAC

Minister for Fishing and Boating



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Wednesday, 13 March 2019

GIPPSLAND FREIGHT BENEFITS FROM BRIDGE STRENGTHENING

Work to strengthen four bridges on the Princes Highway is now complete, allowing heavier trucks and more freight to travel on this important route.

Minister for Roads Jaala Pulford was in Traralgon today to announce the completion of upgrades that saw carbon fibre reinforcement added to the underside of both the east and westbound Princes Highway bridges.

The bridges cross Commercial Road in Morwell and the SEC Railway near the Hazelwood Mine and carry over 3,300 trucks each day.

The upgrades will allow trucks to carry heavier loads, improving efficiency and reducing supply chain costs while also contributing to a strong regional economy.

The \$780,000 investment is from the Andrews Labor Government's \$40.8 million *Strong Bridges, Stronger Economy* program.

This work follows two successful bridge strengthening upgrades delivered on the Princes Highway last year on the Little Moe River Bridge and Morwell River Floodplain Bridge.

For more information about road projects taking place in Gippsland visit regionalroads.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Roads Jaala Pulford

"Stronger bridges mean boosting the capacity of important freight corridors through Gippsland that are essential to supporting these local industries."

Quote attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"This project is about enabling safe and efficient freight movement to support Victoria's growing \$21 billion freight and logistics sector."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

"This section of the Princes Highway carries over 3,300 trucks each day and is a critical link for transporting goods in and out of Gippsland."