



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

# Bridgewater Bridge Replacement

## **Bridgewater Bridge Replacement**

**Project Cost:** \$576 million

**Estimated AG funding:** \$461 million

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will construct a new four-lane bridge (two lanes in each direction) on the Midland Highway over the Derwent River at Bridgewater. It is expected to include sufficient clearance to allow river traffic to navigate under the new bridge, a pedestrian and cyclist shared path, and grade-separated interchanges to help facilitate traffic flow.

### **Related/complementary projects**

The Australian Government has committed \$400 million and the Tasmanian Government \$100 million to the \$500 million Midland Highway Upgrade.

## PROBLEM

The Bridgewater Bridge is the gateway into Hobart from the north, providing vital access over the Derwent River on the Midland Highway.

The existing vertical lift bridge and causeway is approaching the end of its serviceable life and does not meet contemporary loading and design standards as part of the National Land Transport Network. The bridge has high maintenance costs due to its age and current operation as a vertical lift bridge, and the bridge and causeway are increasingly experiencing periods of closure. The existing bridge provides only one lane in each direction and has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h.

Currently the Bridgewater crossing carries approximately 22,000 vehicles per day (96% capacity). Full capacity will indicatively be reached by 2019. The Bridgewater Bridge will soon create a severe blockage and potential failure point on the Midland Highway network leading into Hobart.

## BENEFITS

### **Improved travel times, freight efficiency and connectivity**

- Reduce travel times with four-lane capacity and increased speed limit.
- Improve connectivity with growing industrial and commercial areas around Brighton.
- Reduce freight and travel costs.
- Increased weight and height limit for heavy vehicles.

### **Increase safety:**

- Provide safer overtaking opportunities.
- Reduce crash frequencies.

### **Support regional and local economic development:**

- Support inter-regional connections to and from northern export ports in Tasmania.
- Support the growth of rural populations and the agricultural and tourism industry.

# PROJECT MAP

