Western Highway – Complete the Duplication between Ballarat and Stawell

State/Territory: Victoria  Proposed AG funding: $360.0 million

<table>
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<th>Mode</th>
<th>Major freight route</th>
<th>Major Commuter corridor</th>
<th>Commercial precinct</th>
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PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

The Western Highway is a vital link for the transportation of road freight between eastern and central Australia. It serves a mix of regional communities and industries, linking major agriculture including grain, timber, horticulture and livestock production areas of western Victoria and South Australia to Melbourne, Adelaide and the associated export market.

More than 6,000 vehicles travel the Western Highway west of Ballarat each day, including 1,500 trucks, making it one of the busiest rural freight routes in Australia. This traffic is expected to double by 2025.

This project will complete the duplication of the Western Highway from Ballarat to Stawell by duplicating the final section between Ararat and Stawell.

The project will increase capacity on the highway which will lead to an overall increase in the efficiency and reliability of the corridor. It will also improve access for local communities and provide safer conditions for all road users. The project is expected to support approximately 600 jobs during construction.

This project is expected to be funded on an 80:20 basis with the Victorian Government.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Increase transport infrastructure capacity.
- Improve freight efficiency, connectivity and travel time.
- Provide efficient and reliable travel.
- Improve road safety for all road users.