

# RA CALLS FOR COORDINATED, TRANSPARENT PLAN FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY

Roads Australia has welcomed the Federal Government's investment in infrastructure announced in the May Budget, but says questions still need to be answered about funding and the impact it will have on the timetable for delivering many of the projects.

RA President, Ray Fisher, says the \$8.5 billion commitment to road, rail and port projects announced in the Budget, coupled with the previously announced \$26.4 billion Nation Building package, represents a significant investment in Australia's economic future.

"Infrastructure Australia, in particular, deserves congratulations for the work it has done in assessing its first round of priority projects. These projects have the potential to deliver enormous, long-term economic and social benefit to the country as a whole," Mr Fisher says.

"There remains a question mark over whether the states and territories and/or the private sector have the financial capacity to contribute substantially to a number of these projects, in addition to their existing state programs - and this will obviously impact on when and how these new projects are delivered.

"But it's pleasing that the Government is reportedly exploring ways to encourage the necessary private investment to successfully implement its infrastructure plans."

Mr Fisher says it is more important than ever before that governments - Federal, state and territory - continue to work cohesively with industry stakeholders to ensure this new era of nation building is planned and delivered in an efficient and timely manner.

"We never want to go back to the 'famine or feast' cycle of infrastructure building. It doesn't deliver the best value-for-money outcomes for the taxpayer, nor does it provide job surety for the industry.

"Roads Australia has a roads industry Capacity Policy Chapter, comprised of industry and government representa-

tives, working to get the best utilisation of existing capacity, and we are committed to working with the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to ensure the best outcomes in terms of delivering road projects.

"We hope all governments can build on the spirit of co-operation that's

evident through the Australian Transport Council (ATC) and Council of Australian Governments (COAG), and work together with industry to develop an evolving, transparent, co-ordinated national plan for delivering major infrastructure."

## RA EVENTS CONTINUE TO DELIVER

Roads Australia is continuing to develop and deliver a high quality program of industry networking and policy events to members and stakeholders around Australia.

The major event on the horizon is RA's Annual Summit, to be held in Sydney on July 28 and 29. The Chairman of Bilfinger Berger Australia, Nick Greiner AC, will be the guest speaker at the John Shaw Award Dinner, held on July 28 as part of the two-day Summit.

Recent RA events have included our first industry event in the Northern Territory, a boardroom lunch with Territory Deputy Chief Minister, Delia Lawrie, and Minister Malarndirri McCarthy.

In another first, RA is hosting a boardroom lunch with Tasmanian Minister for Infrastructure, Graeme Sturges, in Hobart in July, sponsored by pitt&sherry.

In April and May RA hosted boardroom lunches with NSW Treasurer, Eric Roozendaal (sponsored by BMD), NSW Roads Minister, Michael Daley (sponsored by Downer EDI Works) and VicRoads CEO, Gary Liddle (sponsored by Baulderstone), as well as an industry lunch in Perth with Main Roads WA Commissioner, Menno Hennevelde (sponsored by Aurecon).

The Daley luncheon in Sydney provided an opportunity for RA guests to discuss a range of issues with the Minister, including RA's Capacity Policy Chapter and its focus on greater



Nick Greiner AC...guest speaker at the John Shaw Award dinner in July.

predictability, better utilisation and capability issues.

Minister Daley has welcomed a more open dialogue with industry on these and other issues through Roads Australia.

A boardroom lunch is being held in Adelaide in June, sponsored by Aurecon, with DTEI CEO, Jim Hallion. RA's Capacity Chapter is also convening again in June at a Melbourne lunch sponsored by URS, with guests Gary Liddle and SEITA Chief Executive, Ken Mathers.

RA's Funding and Financing Chapter convened for a boardroom lunch in Sydney in May, sponsored by SKM, and will meet again in July.

The Congestion and Sustainability chapters also have events planned for the near future.

*For up to date details and booking information on these and all other RA events, go to [www.roads.org.au](http://www.roads.org.au)*

# RA MEMBER CASE STUDY

## VicRoads

# M80 RING ROAD UPGRADE

One of Melbourne's key transport corridors, the M80 Ring Road, is being upgraded. The upgrade will enhance capacity, improve safety, ease congestion and improve travel times.

The M80 incorporates the Western and Metropolitan Ring Roads and spans 38 km from the Princes Freeway at Laverton North to the Greensborough Highway at Greensborough, including interchanges with major freeways and arterial roads – such as the Western Freeway, Calder Freeway, Tullamarine Freeway, Sydney Road and the Hume Freeway. It carries up to 142,000 vehicles per day including 16 per cent of this is freight traffic.

Forming part of Victoria's 2008 Transport Plan, the \$2.25 billion upgrade is jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments, and will compliment other projects addressing Melbourne's transport needs, now and into the future.

### What does the upgrade involve?

Planned works include:

- Construction of additional lanes in both directions to enhance capacity and reduce congestion.
- Construction of additional lanes in selected areas to improve traffic movements between interchanges and reconfiguration of some interchanges and ramps to improve traffic flow.
- Installation of a freeway management system to manage and improve traffic flow on the freeway. This system will

include ramp metering, variable message signs and variable speed limit signs

- Landscaping and urban design to improve visual amenity.

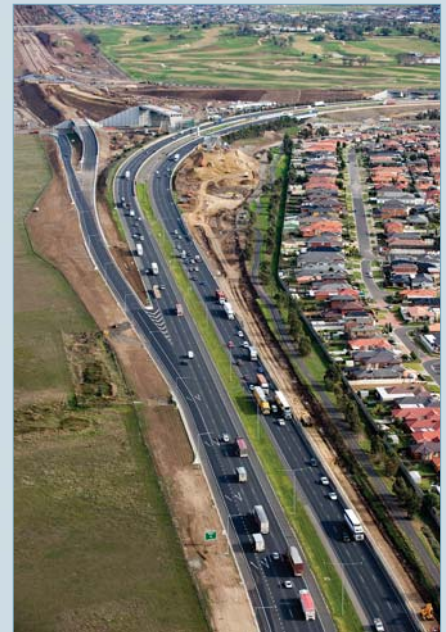
### What benefits will the upgrade deliver?

- Improve safety, ease congestion, improve reliability and decrease travel times, especially during peak periods.
- Expected to provide 6500 jobs during construction and 5500 flow-on jobs.
- Increased capacity to carry freight and other traffic.

### What's already happening?

The upgrade will take place in stages to minimise the impact to motorists and the community. Early works have started and include:

- Adding an extra lane in the Altona bound direction between Deer Park Bypass and Boundary Road and widening the Tilburn Road Bridge.
- Installing ramp signals on the Altona bound entry ramps to the Deer Park Bypass at:
  - Christies Road
  - Robinson Road
- Installing ramp signals on the Laverton bound entry ramps to the M80 Ring Road at:
  - Furlong Road
  - Ballarat Road
  - Fitzgerald Road
  - Boundary Road



Aerial view of early works on the M80 upgrade project.

- Open graded asphaltting between Tilburn Road and the Ardeer South Service Centre.

### Using new ramp signal technology

Ramp signal technology helps maintain the flow of traffic on the freeway by managing the queues at entry ramps. As well as improving traffic flow, it provides a safer driving environment as vehicles enter the freeway in a controlled way making merging easier.

This system uses new wireless technology to coordinate the traffic flow along the M80 corridor.

### What's next?

VicRoads is working with the construction industry to establish a construction partnership to deliver the Tullamarine Freeway to Sydney Road section, with construction to start in early 2010.

### More Information

For more information about the M80 Ring Road Upgrade, Phone the VicRoads project office on (03) 9094 4600 OR Write to M80 Ring Road Upgrade, PO Box 208, Niddrie, VIC 3042 Email [m80upgrade@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:m80upgrade@roads.vic.gov.au)



The upgrade will help ease congestion on the M80 Ring Road.

# RA MEMBER CASE STUDY

SEITA

## PENINSULA LINK

Peninsula Link is Melbourne's next major freeway project, extending 25km from the end of EastLink in Carrum Downs to the Mornington Peninsula Freeway in Mount Martha.

Peninsula Link is a key project in the Victorian Government's \$38 billion Victorian Transport Plan. The \$750 million project is expected to create thousands of jobs annually and significantly slash travel times for residents and visitors to the Mornington Peninsula.

Peninsula Link will be delivered as an Availability Public Private Partnership. Under this model a private partner will finance, build, design, operate and maintain Peninsula Link. In return for its spending, the Victorian Government will make periodic payments to the private company based on a number of key performance indicators such as road maintenance and landscaping. Peninsula Link is the first road project to be delivered as an Availability Public Private Partnership in Australia, allowing the road to remain toll-free for the Victorian community while harnessing the benefits of private sector involvement.

The Southern and Eastern Integrated Transport Authority (SEITA) will manage the project on behalf of the Victorian Government. SEITA was responsible for managing the delivery of the EastLink project and undertook the two year planning study for Peninsula Link.

The award-winning EastLink project has set a new benchmark for construction techniques, innovation and urban design. Peninsula Link will build on the success of the EastLink project to provide an outstanding result for the Victorian community.

For more information on Peninsula Link, visit [www.seita.com.au](http://www.seita.com.au) or telephone (03) 8562 6800.

### Facts and figures

- \$750 million project
- 25 kilometres in length



Artist impression of the EastLink interchange.



Artist impression of the Cranbourne - Frankston Road interchange.

- Two traffic lanes in each direction
- Nine interchanges
- Major bridges at 17 locations
- Freeway to freeway connections at Mornington Peninsula Freeway in Carrum Downs, EastLink and Mornington Peninsula Freeway in Mount Martha.

### Benefits of Peninsula Link

- Peninsula Link is expected to provide a significant economic boost to the region with the creation of around 4000 direct jobs during construction and around 9000 indirect jobs during its early operation.
- Once completed, Peninsula Link will slash travel times between Carrum Downs and Mount Martha to around 17 minutes – a saving of up to 40 minutes.
- Motorists using Peninsula Link will bypass eight signalised intersections, one signalised rail crossing and five major roundabouts.
- Peninsula Link will significantly reduce congestion on busy roads such as the Frankston Freeway and Moorooduc Highway, removing the Frankston bottleneck.
- Peninsula Link will enable motorists to travel from Melbourne's CBD to Rosebud without hitting a traffic light.
- Peninsula Link is estimated to reduce casualty crashes in the region by around 99 per year.
- A new cycling and walking path will be built as part of the project, providing new recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the region.
- Local waterways will be enhanced through measures such as the reinstatement of a more natural flow for Tamarisk Creek.
- Peninsula Link will feature high quality urban design and incorporate noise walls, noise mounds and extensive landscaping to reduce impacts on surrounding residents.