

Media release



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

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PREMIER INSPECTS WORKS ON SECTION TWO OF GEELONG BYPASS

Premier Steve Bracks today visited Geelong with the Minister for Roads and Ports, Tim Pallas, to inspect works on Section Two of the \$380 million Geelong Bypass and to call on the Federal Government to fund half of the \$125 million Anglesea Overpass.

Mr Bracks said he was today sending a letter to the Prime Minister requesting the funding for the people of Geelong and the Surf Coast.

“This is an important road for the Southwest and we would like to see the Federal Government fund half of the Anglesea Overpass and half of Stage Four,” he said.

Mr Bracks said the Section Two works of the Geelong Bypass, between Hamlyn Heights and Fyansford, were progressing well and were on target to be completed in late 2008.

“The community has been lobbying for this project for many years, and now that we are building it, we need to deliver it as soon as possible so the greater Geelong area and south-western Victoria can start to enjoy the benefits of this investment.”

The Minister for Roads and Ports, Tim Pallas, said Section Two of the Geelong Bypass would cater for around 15,000 vehicles per day, and deliver a vital stage of an important overall link for the community between the Princes Freeway at Corio and the Princes Highway at Waurin Ponds.

“Once opened, motorists will avoid up to 29 sets of traffic lights, enjoying significant travel time savings,” Mr Pallas said.

Mr Pallas said the project would also include a shared bicycle and

pedestrian pathway, and architecturally designed noise walls built from weathering steel, significant landscaping and an environmentally sensitive drainage system.

Mr Pallas said storm water run off from the Bypass would pass through vegetation to remove contaminants prior to being released into our waterways.

“Other environmental features like specially designed wetlands and landscaped water courses will protect the water quality in our creeks and rivers. Local wildlife will also be encouraged by thousands of native and indigenous trees and shrubs provided in the landscape plan.”

Mr Bracks said work was set to begin by late 2007 on Section 3, from the Hamilton Highway in Fyansford to the Princes Highway in Waurin Ponds, and would be completed in 2009.

Preliminary works on the 2 kilometre Anglesea Road Overpass will start in 2008, prior to the completion of Stage 3, and will be completed by mid 2010.

Mr Bracks said that if the Federal Government persisted in playing politics and refused to fund half of the overpass the Victorian Government remained committed to funding it alone.

“The Bracks Government is also 100 per cent committed to the construction of a link to the Surf Coast Highway,” Mr Bracks said.

Mr Bracks said the government would await the findings of the planning work to determine whether the second link to the Princes Highway was also necessary and to determine the final cost of the works.

“It took a Labor Government to get the Geelong Bypass started and only a Labor Government can be trusted to keep driving it forward. We look forward to delivering this project together with the Federal Government for the people of south-western Victoria.”