

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Public Transport

Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Thursday, 4 August 2022

NEW BRIDGE TO BE BUILT ON GIRGARRE-RUSHWORTH ROAD

A new bridge will enable trucks and other heavy vehicles to return to Girgarre-Rushworth Road between Stanhope and Rushworth, keeping the region's farmers and freight operators better connected.

The new bridge over the Waranga Western Channel will replace the current bridge thanks to a \$3.9 million investment from the Andrews Labor Government.

The current bridge was built in 1977 and has a load limit of 42.5 tonne and a reduced speed limit in place due to the condition of the bridge, with the new design set to create safer and smoother journeys for all road users.

The works will allow Girgarre-Rushworth Road to return to being a key route for freight, including drivers travelling to and from Fonterra in Stanhope.

The Labor Government is advertising for a contractor to build the bridge with applications open for five weeks. A start date for construction will be confirmed following contract award. Works are expected to start late 2022 and finish in 2023.

Girgarre-Rushworth Road is expected to be closed at the Waranga Western Channel during construction with detours in place.

Heavy vehicles over 42.5 tonnes are reminded to continue to detour via Corop, Colbinabbin, Murchison or Tatura as applicable.

The project is funded by the Road Network Bridge Strengthening Program as part of Labor Government's investment in the freight network. The freight sector contributes \$21 billion to our economy each year and employs 260,000 Victorians.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Roads and Road Safety Ben Carroll

"We know how important this route is to the local freight industry, which is why we are delivering a new bridge to help keep all road users safe."

"Our first priority is to keep people safe on our roads and inspections identified that the Girgarre-Rushworth Road bridge required complete replacement to safely cater for heavy vehicles."

Quote attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"We're working to make our roads safer and ensure goods can move freely through the region, while supporting heavy vehicle drivers who are vital to our growing economy and communities."

Quotes attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

"We know the local population is growing so we need to ensure we've the infrastructure in place to support that growth both now and well into the future."

Media contact: Isobel Loschiavo 0431 963 479 | isobel.loschiavo@minstaff.vic.gov.au