

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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CityLink-Tullamarine corridor upgrade a win for Victoria's construction sector

An \$850 million upgrade to one of Melbourne's key road corridors will provide a great boost for the state's construction industry and has been welcomed by Master Builders.

"The widening of the CityLink-Tullamarine Freeway upgrade will drive investment and create more jobs in our sector," said Master Builders CEO Radley de Silva.

"This project is a big short term win for the construction sector with works expected to start next year and, when complete, will cut travel times for Victorian motorists for years to come."

Premier Denis Naphine says the upgrade, which will add extra lanes on the Bolte Bridge through to the Tullamarine Freeway at Essendon Fields as well as part of the West Gate Freeway, will create 700 jobs.

Funded by toll road operator Transurban, the project was put forward to the State Government through its new unsolicited proposals process. It follows the recently announced upgrade to the Pakenham-Cranbourne rail line corridor, which will also be delivered as a private sector funded unsolicited project.

"The State Government is successfully harvesting private sector expertise and innovation to get more city-shaping construction projects off-the-ground," Mr de Silva said.

"Major projects like the CityLink-Tulla upgrade are crucial in ensuring our community enhances its world-leading liveability standards and meets the needs of a growing population."

Government figures show the project will cut travel times to Melbourne Airport by 16 minutes during peak periods and boost the corridor's capacity by 30 per cent.

"Our industry stands ready and willing to deliver this upgrade and see it taken further all the way through to Melbourne Airport," Mr de Silva said.

"We hope the Commonwealth will step forward and help provide funding towards the last leg of the Tullamarine Freeway upgrade so that local residents and visitors alike have great access to our gateway to the world."

It is estimated this final section of works, between Melrose Drive and Melbourne Airport, will cost around \$250 million. The Victorian Government has confirmed it is discussing funding for this section with the Commonwealth.

The CityLink-Tullamarine Freeway upgrade is part of a suite of transport network projects Master Builders has called for in its Pre-Budget submission to the State Government.

Media enquiries:

Laura Luvara, Media Adviser, (03) 9411 4534, 0466 777 059,
lluvara@mbav.com.au

www.mbav.com.au