



Hume Freeway expansion

A nation-building priority with regional impact

The Hume Freeway is Australia's most critical transport corridor. It connects Melbourne and Sydney, services the nation's highest-value freight route and links to Sydney Road, a major thoroughfare for the inner north. For local communities, it is also a vital connector to jobs, education, healthcare, public transport, family, and opportunity.

The Hume is now at capacity, straining under the pressure of significant population growth, industrial expansion, and surging freight volumes.

As Melbourne's north grows to 1.5 million people over the coming decades, long-term planning and expansion of the Hume Freeway is urgently required to unlock these emerging communities and ensure that the Hume can remain an efficient freight and commuter spine.

The ask: \$20 million for a feasibility and scoping study

We are seeking **\$20 million** to undertake a **comprehensive feasibility and scoping study** for the Hume Freeway expansion. This foundational step will unlock future planning, design and construction phases.

Why this investment is critical?

Investment in expansion of the Hume Freeway will:

- support Australia's most valuable freight corridor (Beveridge Intermodal Precinct).
- ease congestion for hundreds of thousands of commuters.
- reduce road trauma and safety risks.
- unlock housing and employment in underserviced growth communities.
- support essential public transport connections.
- align with Victoria's long-term population and productivity agenda.

The issues: congestion, safety and lost productivity

Increased demand for road freight coupled with rapid residential, commercial, and industrial development in Melbourne's north is rapidly earning the Hume Freeway a reputation as Australia's most congested freeway, undermining economic efficiency and liveability.



Issues include:

- commute times for a northern suburb resident heading south can exceed two hours each way.
- local bottlenecks at key interchanges (Cooper Street, O'Herns Road, Donnybrook Road, and the Northern Highway) cause frequent gridlock.
- road safety is increasingly compromised, with congestion escalating the risk of crashes and delays to emergency services.

The opportunity: enabling growth for 1.5 million people

Melbourne's northern region is expected to grow to 1.5 million people in the coming decades. Supporting this growth requires infrastructure that keeps pace.

The Hume Freeway is a strategic corridor of state and national significance. It connects outer metropolitan communities, key freight nodes and emerging regional centres.

Without targeted investment, congestion will worsen, economic growth will slow, and new communities will be left behind. Also, established communities will be dealing with increased congestion into their municipalities.

Summary of priorities

Priorities for this project are:

- **triplication of the Hume Freeway:** from the M80 Ring Road to Wallan, increasing capacity for freight and commuter traffic
- **targeted congestion relief:** addressing existing bottlenecks
- **regional and metropolitan integration:** ensure land use, employment access and infrastructure planning align with future growth in Melbourne's north and beyond.

Feasibility and scoping study

The initial ask is for \$20 million for a feasibility and scoping report, including an analysis of demand factors, options analysis and investment case that will allow the project to proceed to a planning and design phase.

This report will potentially cover the timeline, project objectives, scope, stakeholder analysis, technical feasibility and requirements, environmental impact, economic impact, investment case, social impact, regulatory requirements, future patronage forecasts, travel patterns and times, land use assessment, risk assessment and financial viability, along with a high-level cost estimate. The report would also identify appropriate planning pathways and design options to position the project to progress.



Governance and delivery

An experienced consultant will be engaged to deliver the report in collaboration with the Department of Transport and Planning, Infrastructure Victoria and other key stakeholders, including Councils in the north.

The study will deliver:

- analysis of demand, and travel patterns for general traffic, public transport and freight movements
- technical feasibility and engineering options
- environmental, social and economic impact assessment
- strategic business case and cost-benefit evaluation
- planning pathways and regulatory requirements
- a clear roadmap to construction readiness.

This investment is about getting the project ready, with a robust evidence base and stakeholder alignment.