

# Media release



## FROM THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**DATE: Friday, June 13, 2008**

### **\$2.6 MILLION TO IMPROVE KEY REGIONAL FREIGHT ROUTES**

Key freight routes across regional and rural Victoria will be improved and made safer with the thanks of a \$2.6 million Brumby Government funding boost announced today.

Regional and Rural Development Minister Jacinta Allan said the funding would be provided to 12 councils over 20 individual projects in regional Victoria through the Brumby Government's \$5.05 million *Local Roads to Market Program*.

"The Brumby Government is taking action to deliver key infrastructure projects in regional and rural Victoria," Ms Allan said.

"Upgrading these major freight routes for B-double truck access will improve the efficiency and competitiveness of agricultural and horticultural producers and related industries in regional and rural Victoria.

"Australia's freight output is expected to double by 2020, with road transport expected to handle the majority of this growth.

"The Brumby Government recognises that B-double trucks will play an important role in handling the freight load in rural and regional Victoria in the years ahead.

"*Local Roads to Market Program* funding is being made available to councils for projects that will better link farms with processing centres and markets such as in the dairy, timber, grain, fruit and processed foods sectors."

The regional and rural councils that are set to receive funding through the program are:

- Baw Baw Shire - \$160,000 to widen, re-sheet and seal Matheson, Murphy and Bransgrove roads in Neerim North, Gordon Road in Yarragon and Weebar Road in Drouin;
- Colac Otway Shire - \$225,000 to seal and widen two sections of Larpent

Road to complete the link for B-double use;

- Corangamite Shire - \$199,000 to upgrade Blake Street in Skipton, Knackery Road in Camperdown, Williams Road in Timboon and the Curdivale–Port Campbell roads intersection in Port Campbell for B-double use;
- Golden Plains Shire - \$184,000 to upgrade English Road in Lethbridge to improve B-double access to local poultry farms;
- Indigo Shire - \$593,800 to upgrade Kiewa-Bonegilla Road for B-double use in two stages;
- Mildura Rural City - \$200,000 to upgrade access to the Yelta silo for B-double use;
- Moyne Shire - \$198,000 to widen Allansford-Wangoom Road to 6.2 metres, enabling overtaking and passing to occur on a sealed surface;
- Pyrenees Shire - \$100,000 to upgrade Vinoca Road in Avoca for B-double use;
- Southern Grampians Shire - \$197,400 to upgrade Cavendish Coleraine Road to allow B-double access;
- Rural City of Wangaratta - \$100,000 to reconstruct Edi Cheshunt Road to allow B-double access; and
- Wellington Shire - \$200,000 to reconstruct Bolgers Road in Devon North from the intersection of Devon North Connection Road to Widdons Lane to allow B-double access.

Campaspe Shire has already received a commitment of \$259,750 to reseal a 1.1km section of Strathallan Road between the Northern Highway and the Echuca Kyabram Road to enable heavy vehicles to travel safely between Echuca and Rochester.

Ms Allan said the *Local Roads to Market Program* builds on the success of the \$6 million *Dairy Industry Local Roads Program*, which is upgrading strategic local roads and farm entrances to improve the efficiency and safety of milk pick ups, boosting the competitiveness of the state's dairy industry.

"The *Local Roads to Market* and *Dairy Industry Local Roads* programs are part of the *Regional Infrastructure Development Fund*, which had been very successful in boosting critical infrastructure projects across Victoria," she said.

"This funding from the *Local Roads to Market Program* will support more than \$5.46 million of local capital works.

"The Brumby Government has provided \$400 million through the *Regional Infrastructure Development Fund* to fund 173 projects worth about \$1.2 billion across regional and rural Victoria."