

# Media release



## FROM THE MINISTER FOR ROADS AND PORTS

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### **FOOTSCRAY ROAD OUTBOUND BRIDGE OPEN TO TRAFFIC AS DYNON PORT RAIL LINK PROJECT ACHIEVES MAJOR MILESTONE**

The outbound lanes of the new Footscray Road overpass will open to traffic this weekend, as the Dynon Port Rail Link project achieves its first major milestone, Victorian Minister for Roads and Ports, Tim Pallas, and Australian Minister for Health and Ageing and local Member for Gellibrand, Nicola Roxon announced today.

The Dynon Port Rail Link project separates road and rail access to the Port of Melbourne, easing congestion on Footscray Road and improving safety at a major road and rail bottleneck.

Mr Pallas said the project would significantly improve road and rail access to the Port of Melbourne.

“Starting this weekend, the level crossing on Appleton Dock Road will be removed when the newly constructed Appleton Dock Road overpass is also opened to traffic.

“At its completion, this project will ensure 24 hour, uninterrupted rail access to the Port.

“Currently the Port’s only rail access is via a single dual-gauge track crossing Footscray Road.

This project will see the existing rail line relocated and replaced with two new dual gauge rail lines into the Port of Melbourne from the Dynon terminal precinct.

“The extra rail capacity and traffic overpass will increase the amount of freight that can be carried directly to the port, helping to secure Melbourne’s position as the largest and most efficient container port in Australia.”

The completion of stage one of the Dynon Port Rail Link Project will

see motorists using the new outbound bridge on Footscray Road.

Mr Pallas said an important benefit of the Dynon Port Rail Link project was improved congestion on Footscray Road.

Nicola Roxon said that the Dynon Port Rail Link project will help make local roads safer and ease traffic by transferring more of Australia's freight onto rail.

"This is good news for local motorists in my electorate who regularly use Footscray Road to travel into the city," Ms Roxon said.

"Local roads will be safer for pedestrians and motorists with the removal of the level crossings at Footscray Road, Appleton Dock Road and Enterprize Road.

"For motorists, the Dynon Port Rail Link project means that there won't be delays on Footscray Road when trains need to cross.

"And for freight, there will be efficiency gains and cost savings with more and longer trains able to access the port more efficiently without having to wait for traffic or break into smaller lengths.

"The Dynon Port Rail Link project is an example of State and Federal Governments working together to deliver nation-building infrastructure.

"In addition to this project, the Rudd and Brumby Governments are injecting a further \$501.3 million to revitalise Victoria's north east rail corridor and create an interstate rail freight super highway.

"Work is also underway on the \$45 million Tottenham–Dynon rail upgrade project which will allow more trains to access the Port of Melbourne by duplicating tracks and removing bottlenecks," Ms Roxon concluded.

Mr Pallas said with the Channel Deepening project progressing well it was essential that the appropriate landside infrastructure was in place to support freight movement.

"Work will now commence on stage two of the Dynon Port Rail Link project, which will involve construction of the new city-bound bridge on Footscray Road.

"In the interim, traffic travelling towards the city on Footscray Road will continue to use the existing at grade city-bound lanes," Mr Pallas said.

It is anticipated that the city-bound bridge will be opened to traffic in early 2009.