



Office of the Minister for Roads and Ports

DOT091949
(File No.: PC004602)

10 MAR 2010

Mr David B Allan
1 Larnook Street
PRAHRAN VIC 3181

11 MAR 2010

PO Box 2797
Melbourne, Victoria 3001
Telephone: (03) 9655 6210
Facsimile: (03) 9655 6651
www.vic.gov.au
DX 210410
Our Ref:

Dear Mr Allan

MONASH-CITYLINK-WEST GATE (M1) UPGRADE WEST GATE BRIDGE LIGHTING

Thank you for your correspondence received on 4 February 2010, addressed to the Premier regarding the upgrade of the West Gate Bridge. I am responding on behalf of the Minister for Roads and Ports.

The Brumby Government is taking action to build Victorians the best transport network in Australia. As part of the Government's *Victorian Transport Plan* \$1,390 million is being invested into upgrading the M1 (Monash-CityLink-West Gate) corridor, including the West Gate Bridge, to improve safety and reduce travel times for motorists.

The existing lighting on the bridge is now over 30 years old and has reached the end of its serviceable life. The introduction of newer lighting technologies on buildings, stadiums and infrastructure across the world has also meant that sourcing the supplies required to maintain the West Gate Bridge's current lighting is more difficult and much more expensive.

Action is required to ensure the lighting on the bridge continues to protect the safety of the 160,000 motorists who use it every day. The new lighting will deliver this protection and help reduce the ongoing maintenance costs that Victorians invest every year into the outdated and inefficient lighting system currently on the bridge.

The M1 project is the largest State-funded road project ever undertaken. At a cost of \$1,390 million it is an expensive project but the benefits it will deliver Victorians are also substantial. The costs of upgrading the lighting on the West Gate Bridge is part of the funding for this project and represents less than two per cent of the total budget. Due to the West Gate Bridge being one of only five bridges of its kind in the world, the design for all aspects of its upgrade have required the expertise of leading engineers from across the world, which has contributed in part to the significant costs needed to upgrade the lighting.

The West Gate Bridge is one of Melbourne's premier bridges and is an icon used by motorists travelling between the city centre, our western suburbs and parts of regional Victoria. The Government is acting to ensure it is a fitting symbol for one of the world's most liveable cities, which will be enhanced with the new lighting scheme.

In addition to helping reduce the costs of ongoing lighting maintenance, the new LED lighting that is to be installed on the bridge will help minimise the bridge's carbon footprint.



The M1 upgrade will provide five lanes in each direction along the bridge for motorists as well as public safety barriers. The project, including the lighting upgrade, balances the need for safety with sustainability and is an appropriate investment for one of our most vital pieces of transport infrastructure.

The Brumby Government will continue to take action to improve our roads so that motorists can spend less time in traffic and more time at home with family and friends.

Yours sincerely



Cressida Wall
Chief of Staff

11 MAR 2010