

WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY OVERVIEW



Introduction

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Strategy is an evidence-based strategy which:

- Identifies priority transport projects of regional significance.
- Ensures the Wimmera Southern Mallee's transport directions are aligned with state, regional and local policy.

The strategy is owned by the Wimmera Southern Mallee councils, comprising of Buloke, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack. It has been prepared with assistance and input from State Government authorities.

Key issues for the region

The Wimmera Southern Mallee is a large, productive region, but faces a number of issues in relation to funding opportunities and the maintenance of its transport network. These have been identified as:

- **Changes in supply chains and industry, increasing the number of large trucks on roads**
- **Maintenance of an extensive road network, notably C class routes**
- **A need to improve mode split for rail freight**
- **Limited public transport accessibility**
- **A dispersed population in small towns**
- **Opportunities to support tourism**

A regional strategic focus

The strategy builds on a detailed evidence base and the directions of existing plans and strategies. It identifies regional issues and opportunities to manage these issues through enhancements to the transport network.

All types of transport are included in the strategy: local and arterial roads, airports, railways, public transport and active transport.

Opportunities and solutions

A range of specific projects have been included in the strategy which will improve the region's transport network and support its growth and prosperity. Projects have been selected to:

- Support investment and economic development
- Enhance supply chains and freight efficiency
- Help manage known regional challenges
- Improve accessibility
- Improve safety, health and wellbeing
- Implement other plans and strategies

Ten projects have been prioritised which are expected to have the greatest benefit for the region. These are listed on the following page.

The strategy also includes an extensive list of other projects which are suitable for funding. These cover all modes of transport, are located across the Wimmera Southern Mallee and range from small to large scale projects.

Priority projects

Western Highway duplication to Stawell	Duplicating this national highway between Buangor and Stawell will have significant productivity and safety benefits for the region and the state
Western Highway safety and efficiency improvements – Stawell to SA border	Ongoing improvements to the Western Highway, such as passing lanes, will improve safety, travel times and freight efficiency
Henty Highway improvements – Horsham to Lascelles	The region's key north-south road requires shoulder and roughness upgrades to ensure it is fit for purpose as part of Victoria's Principal Freight Network
Grampians Peaks Trail	This proposed 144km walking trail through the Grampians National Park will be a major tourism icon for the region and improve active transport
Mildura to Ports rail standardisation	Standardisation of railway lines will help increase freight efficiency and improve mode share for rail, taking trucks off the region's roads
Horsham Bypass	A Western Highway bypass of this regional city will improve amenity and safety for residents and increase the efficiency of freight movements
Capacity improvements to the Adelaide-Melbourne railway	Upgrades such as extended passing loops and improved signalling will improve capacity on this key regional and interstate rail corridor
Henty Highway improvements – Horsham to Portland	The primary freight route from the Wimmera to Portland will benefit from greater maintenance south of Horsham to improve the road condition
Grampians Ring Road	Upgrading roads around the perimeter of the Grampians National Park will provide increased opportunities for tourism dispersal and investment
Rainbow railway line upgrade	The region is seeking track improvements to carry heavier, more efficient grain wagons, as well as reopening the line between Rainbow and Yaapect

