



Take the easy way take the Freeway

Driver and community benefits of using
the West Gate Freeway and Bolte Bridge
for night journeys to and from Melbourne
Ports and Rail Freight Terminals

Melbourne's inner west is important to Melbourne's Ports and Rail Freight Terminals and is home to more than 80,000 people.* The freight industry makes a significant contribution to the Victorian and national economies and is an important employment generator.

*Maribyrnong Community Profile 2014

However, truck traffic in areas such as Yarraville can have a negative effect on the residential environment, especially at night.

Some drivers use routes in Yarraville rather than the West Gate Freeway and the Bolte Bridge when travelling to and from Melbourne Ports and Rail Freight Terminals. Concerns expressed by drivers about taking the Freeway relate to the CityLink toll and the perception that this route will take longer.

This campaign shows that the West Gate Freeway/Bolte Bridge route enables truck operators to travel to and from the Ports and Rail Freight Terminals via a safe, quick and easy route without impacting residents in the Yarraville area, creating the opportunity for truck operators to enhance their reputation in the community.

Benefits of using the freeway system

A community-friendly route

Yarraville residents are very concerned about the speed of trucks through their area and the noise and exhaust emissions.

Engine brakes or 'Jacobs' brakes in particular are often identified as generating unacceptable levels of noise, as are noisy trailers and loose fittings such as twist locks.

You can help people in Yarraville sleep easy. It's as simple as using the West Gate Freeway and Bolte Bridge at night for journeys to and from the Ports, as well as doing what many professional and responsible drivers do - keep your fittings maintained and turn off your engine brakes or use them only if it's absolutely necessary in residential areas.



A path to good practice

Australia's freight industry continues to move towards more responsible, community-friendly practice and many operators and drivers are striving to develop a more professional image.

"There is an opportunity for the Victorian Transport Association (VTA) to improve our standing in the community and to generate more awareness of driving as a responsible profession by increasing the use of the Freeway to access the Ports and Rail Freight Terminal," says VTA CEO Mr Peter Anderson.

"With community members expressing concerns about the effect of truck traffic on their wellbeing, drivers and operators have an opportunity to further enhance their professionalism by taking the West Gate Freeway/Bolte Bridge route at night.

"This is an easy, high-quality route for drivers and has the added benefit of actively providing greater harmonisation of road use and acknowledgment of the rights of all road users".

An easier journey

Key aspects of the design and operation of the West Gate Freeway/Bolte Bridge provide ideal conditions for truck operators, including:

- minimal traffic signals or intersections, which reduce engine and brake wear and enable free flowing traffic, particularly at night
- multiple lanes, allowing easy manoeuvring and access; and
- a high quality road service, improving ride and driver comfort.

The Freeway is an easy route for drivers - and it's easy on the residents too.

A quicker journey

With the West Gate Freeway providing free-flowing operating conditions and convenient access, freight operators have achieved travel time savings by taking this route rather than travelling through Yarraville. "For night journeys between the Ports and Rail Freight Terminals, the West Gate Freeway/Bolte Bridge route is quicker than taking roads through local streets in Yarraville," said Mr Anderson.

"In addition, the Freeway can offer considerable cost savings through reduced travel times, fewer maintenance costs, reduced accident exposure and improved fuel efficiency. At the VTA, we are always keen to help our members find ways to optimise their operating dollar," he said.

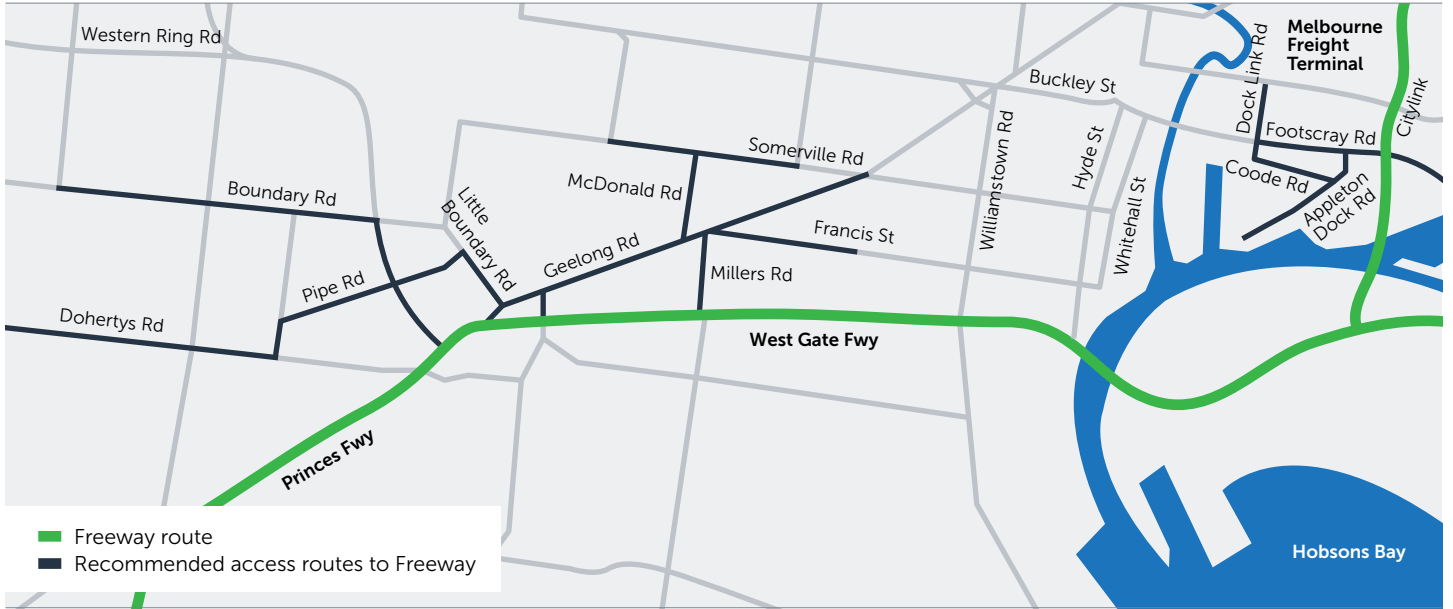
The VTA's recognition of the benefits of this route is reinforced by research that indicates that drivers can cut their travel times by taking the West Gate Freeway/Bolte Bridge when travelling at night between the Ports and areas in Melbourne's west, in some instances by up to 25 per cent.

A recent travel time assessment conducted by VicRoads compared truck travel times on the West Gate Bridge and Bolte Bridge routes with travel times on routes through Yarraville.

The assessment measured the travel time for trucks travelling between Footscray Road and the Millers Road/West Gate Freeway interchange (see map on back page) during off-peak times. It found that:

- Drivers can cut their travel time by 25 per cent by using the Bolte Bridge and West Gate Freeway to travel between Footscray Road and many destinations west and south of the West Gate Freeway/Millers Road interchange.





Recommended routes between the inner west and Ports

The map indicates the recommended routes for travelling between the inner west and Melbourne Ports and Rail Freight Terminals.

All recommended routes provide excellent operating conditions for truck drivers, with good access available via multi-lane on and off ramps and improved intersections and traffic signals.

You can take it easy - on yourself and on the community.

Reduce your travel times and improve living conditions for residents by using the West Gate Freeway and Bolte Bridge at night when travelling to or from Melbourne Ports and Rail Freight Terminals.

Comparison of truck travel times

Appleton Dock Rd/Footscray Rd to Westgate Freeway/Millers Rd

- Via West Gate Freeway/Western Link (cut 25% off travel time) - **8 minutes**
- Via Footscray Rd/Whitehall St/Francis St/Geelong Rd/Millers Rd - **11 minutes**
- Via Footscray Rd/Whitehall St/Williamstown Rd/Francis St/West Gate Freeway - **11 minutes**