

# Project Evaluation Finding

## Princes Highway East - Murrungowar Rest Area Upgrade

### Project Description

Murrungowar Rest Area Princes Highway East was upgraded to a major rest area standard, aiming to fill the gap in suitable facilities and to reduce driver fatigue related crashes. Murrungowar is the second major rest area facility in the region (after the Longwarry Service Station).

### Output

The project delivered safe truck parking and a rest area to:

- Provide more regular interval of rest areas so freight operators can more easily and safely plan their trips with required rest breaks.
- Improve road safety on Princes Highway East, particularly fatigue related crashes
- Provide suitable facilities such as load check bays, noisy truck parking, split of car / car trailer parking, toilets, improved facilities for regular transport / tourist traffic.

### Cost & Duration

The project cost \$2.98 million (completed 12% under budget) and was delivered on time by May 2017.

### Working with others

Regional Roads Victoria worked with National Pilot Vehicle Drivers Association, Parks Victoria, Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, East Gippsland Shire Council and various freight operators during the development of this project.

### Benefits Achieved

Use of rest area

- Counts show an increase in rest area use by 47% (69% increase in heavy vehicles from 101 to 171 per week, 35% increase in light vehicles, from 185 to 249 per week)
- Project has met objective to provide a suitable standard facility.

Improved road safety

Data shows east bound from Murrungowar to Cann River:

- a 79% crash reduction in fatigue related crashes
- a 100% crash reduction in freight fatigue related crashes.

### More Information

For more information please contact:  
[chris.padovan@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:chris.padovan@roads.vic.gov.au).

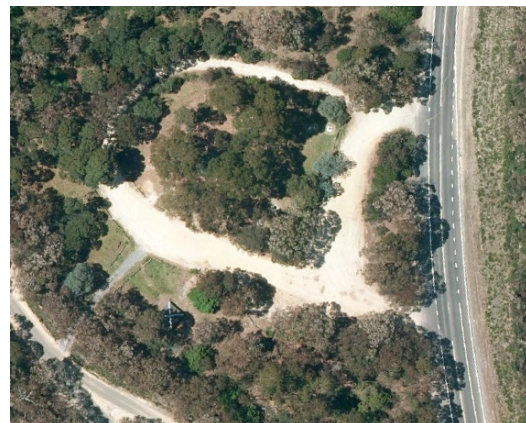


Figure 1 – Before

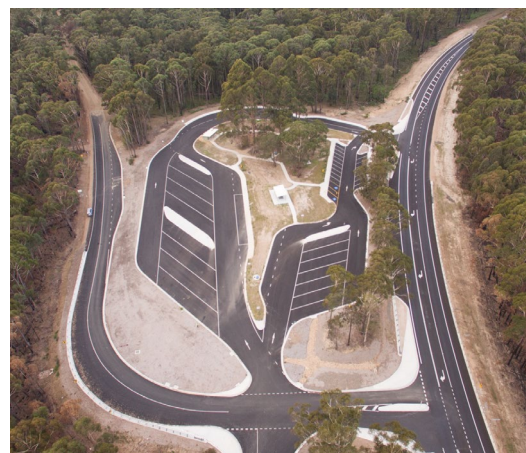


Figure 2 – After