

## McKenzie River Rest Area – Princes Highway East

### Project Description

McKenzie River Rest Area, Princes Highway was upgraded to improve deficiencies in truck parking and the ability of trucks to pull over safely between Cann River and Orbost, East Gippsland.

### Output

The project delivered a safe truck parking and rest area that meets current design standards and encourages truck drivers to stop and rest. The upgrade included:

- Sealing pavement with designated parking for B-doubles
- Access and safety improvements
- Installation of lighting.

### Cost & Duration

The project cost \$1,050,000 (completed 16% under budget) and was delivered as a 'construct only' project. Construction was completed in March 2014, 3 weeks early compared with estimated timeframes, with toilet facilities added in May 2016.

### Working with others

VicRoads 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

#### Increased facility use

- Traffic counts show a substantial increase in cars and trucks using the rest stop from 128 vehicles/week to 302 vehicles/week (volumes more than doubled).
- Project has met objective to provide a suitable facility for truck drivers to rest.

#### Improvements to Road Safety

- Data does not show a reduction in casualty crashes to date in regards to run-off road freight or car type crashes (to be reassessed at 5 years after).
- Data shows a reduction in the severity of crashes, with less fatalities and serious injuries recorded. Serious and fatal run-off road crashes have reduced from 3.6 to 3.3 crashes per year westbound, and from 3.4 to 1.5 crashes per year eastbound from the rest stop.

The project has delivered a safe truck parking and rest area and appropriate westbound facilities between Cann River and Orbost, which will have lasting benefits to safety and risk of fatigue.

### More Information

For more information please contact:  
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Figure 1 – Before



Figure 2 – After