

## Princes Freeway East / Sand Road Interchange Project

### Project Evaluation Finding

#### Project Description

The Sand Road interchange project replaced the Princes Freeway / Sand Road intersection in Longwarry with a full grade separated interchange to improve safety, traffic flow and customer satisfaction.

#### Output

As part of the upgrade, we:

- Constructed a full grade separated interchange at the former intersection of Princes Freeway East / Sand Road.
- Removed the variable speed limit on the Princes Freeway and replaced it with a 110km/h speed limit.
- Installed wire rope safety barriers along Princes Freeway.

#### Cost & Duration

The Sand Road Interchange was completed for a total cost of \$22.25 million, approximately \$9 million under budget.

The interchange was jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Victorian Government.

The construction had a duration of 18 months and was completed in March 2017.

#### Working with Others

Key stakeholders we worked with on this project include:

- Baw Baw Shire Council.
- Local residents and businesses in Longwarry.

#### Project Benefits

Aligning with our project aims, the interchange improved safety, transport efficiency and customer satisfaction.

#### Improved Safety for Road Users around Sand Road Interchange

Even though it is still early days, current data indicates that there has not been a single casualty crash in the vicinity of the intersection since the opening of the new interchange.

#### Improved Transport Network Efficiency

As a result of improved safety, the variable speed limit along Princes Freeway has been replaced with a 110km/h

permanent speed limit. This results in travel time savings and more reliable travel time for both commuters and freight operators.

Additionally the project is expected to significantly reduce delays associated with crashes at the Princes Freeway and Sand Road intersection.

#### Improved Customer Satisfaction

Community survey undertaken after the completion of the interchange indicates that 97% of residents feel the Sand Road Interchange project has met their needs.



Figure 1 – Before Construction



Figure 2 – Sand Road Interchange