



The Place To Be

# Media release

From the Minister for Roads and Ports

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Friday, 26 June, 2009

## **NEW SECTIONS OF MONASH FREEWAY RETURN TO 100 KM/H LIMIT**

Speed limits on the Monash Freeway have returned to 100km/h between Warrigal Road and Springvale Road and from Brady Road to the South Gippsland Freeway, as sections of the Brumby Labor Government's \$1.39 billion M1 project continue to open.

Roads and Ports Minister Tim Pallas said as part of the upgrade of the Monash-CityLink-West Gate (M1) freeway, a new lane had been added in each direction through this section of the Victoria's busiest freight and traffic corridor.

"The Brumby Labor Government is taking action now to improve Victoria's roads, investing in important projects to reduce congestion, create jobs and deliver a world-class transport network for all Victorians," Mr Pallas said.

"An 80km/h speed limit has been in place since construction began 18 months ago. However, more than 13 kilometres of completed road means we can now reinstate the 100km/h speed limit earlier than anticipated.

"The stretches of road between Chadstone and Mulgrave and Dandenong North to the South Gippsland Freeway are the latest sections to open as the largest state-funded road project in Victoria's history steadily improves safety and reliability along the M1 corridor.

"We are progressively opening the freeway in sections to provide immediate benefits to the thousands of people who live, work and do business along one of our busiest freeways."

Mr Pallas said other sections of the M1 Upgrade east of the CityLink tunnels to Warrigal Rd would also be opened progressively in the next few months.

"While the permanent speed limit on this section is returning to 100km/h, motorists should be aware that works will be continuing right along the corridor for some time and they should continue to observe the roadworks speed limits that will be in place at certain times," he said.

"Ongoing works along the Monash Freeway east of Warrigal Road include the widening of bridges, erection of new noise walls, resurfacing works and the installation of state-of-the-art freeway management systems to help manage traffic flow."

M1 Upgrade Project Director John Cunningham said there would also be major works taking place on the weekend on sections of CityLink and the Monash Freeway with closures on both Friday and Saturday nights.

"The Monash Freeway will be closed from Burke Road to Warrigal Road in both directions on Friday night from midnight until 8am and from the tunnels to Warrigal Road from 9pm Saturday night to 9am Sunday morning," Mr Cunningham said.

"We thank motorists for their patience throughout construction and ask all to take care when travelling on this corridor, for their own safety, for the safety of workers and all other road users."

The M1 Upgrade is expected to be completed at the end of 2010.

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