

Property Acquisition

In order to complete upgrading of the Corio Interchange, some acquisition of vacant land is required. VicRoads has conducted interviews with landowners and is negotiating agreement with affected land owners to acquire this land.

Noise and Landscape Treatments

Special attention will be taken to minimise noise and visual impact on residential communities where the freeway passes adjacent to housing developments at Lara and Corio. Landscaping will be undertaken to complement adjacent areas and to integrate with the City of Greater Geelong's Boulevard project.

Traffic Management

In order to minimise disruption to traffic and to provide a safe working environment during construction, contractors will be required to keep two traffic lanes operating in each direction at all times, and to undertake widening works behind concrete barriers.

Variable message signs will be placed at key locations along the freeway to communicate relevant information to road users.

Roadworks Speed Limits

Roadworks speed limits will apply during the construction period in the interests of safety for road users and construction workers. At all times, drivers should watch for and obey directions from roadworks signs and traffic controllers. Remember, roadworks speed limits are legal speed limits. They will be enforced by Police to avoid needless accidents during construction.



Aerial view of Hovells Creek.

Geelong Road Project Liaison Group

The success of this project and its timely delivery is only possible by working with the community to meet the needs of road users, local residents, businesses, and councils.

VicRoads has formed a Project Liaison Group, which will meet regularly in the lead up to, and during construction.

The Group includes representation from VicRoads, councils, authorities, special interest organisations and residents.

Public Information Meetings

A public meeting was held in Lara in August to discuss works on the Corio section. Similar meetings will be conducted to discuss issues affecting communities adjacent to other sections of Geelong Road.

Project Office

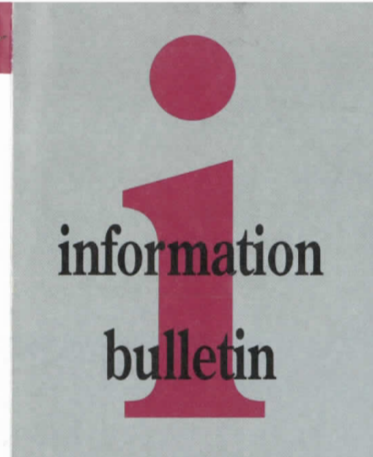
VicRoads is establishing a Project Office at Hoppers Crossing which will open in early 2000. The Office will include a public display area.

In addition to regular information bulletins and brochures, a Geelong Road Project information page will soon be available on the VicRoads Internet web site at www.vicroads.gov.au

More Information

If you have any further questions about the Geelong Road Project, please contact:

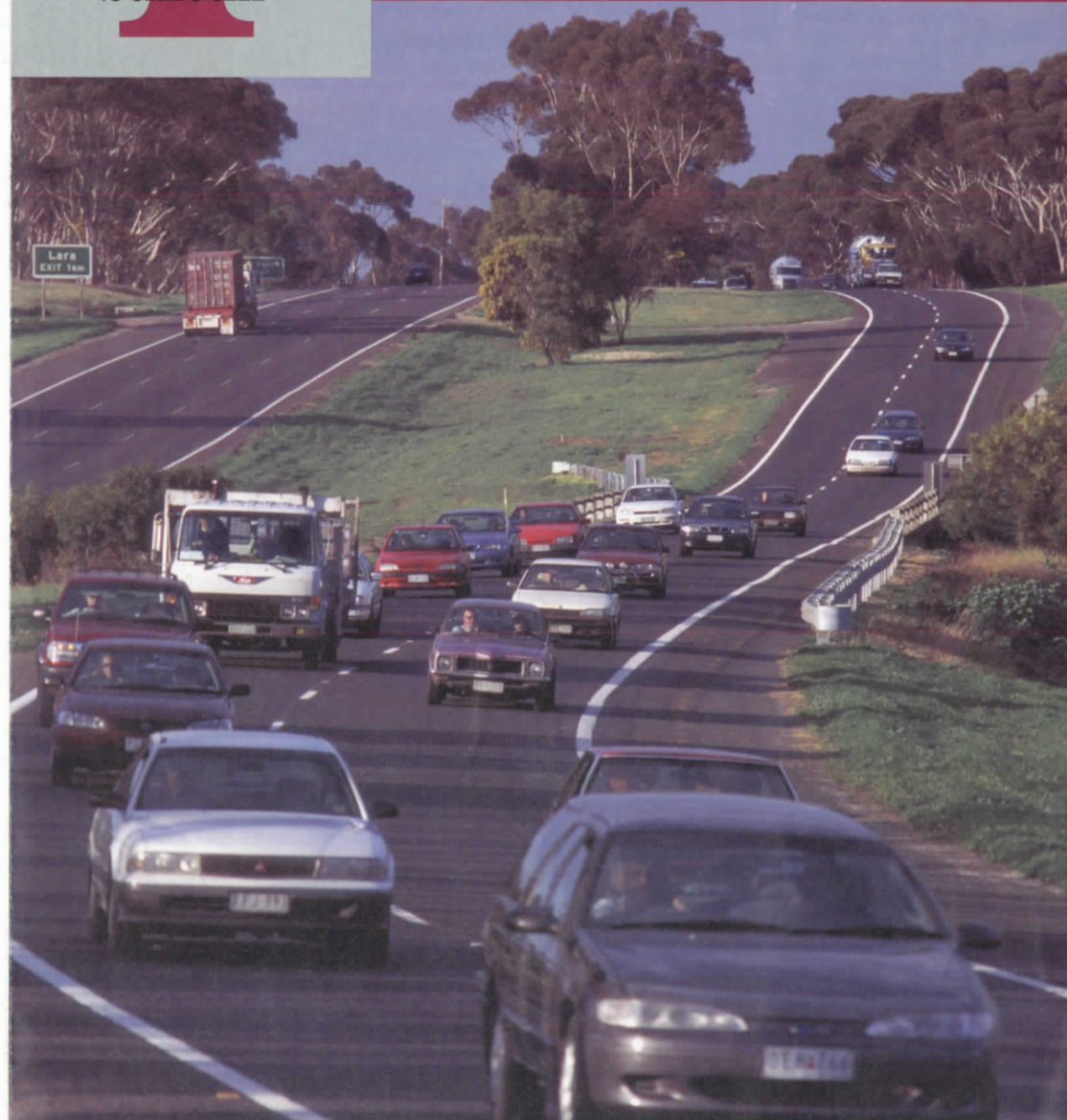
Kevin Fox, Manager – Project Communications 9338 4055
or
e-mail: grproject@vrnotes.roads.vic.gov.au

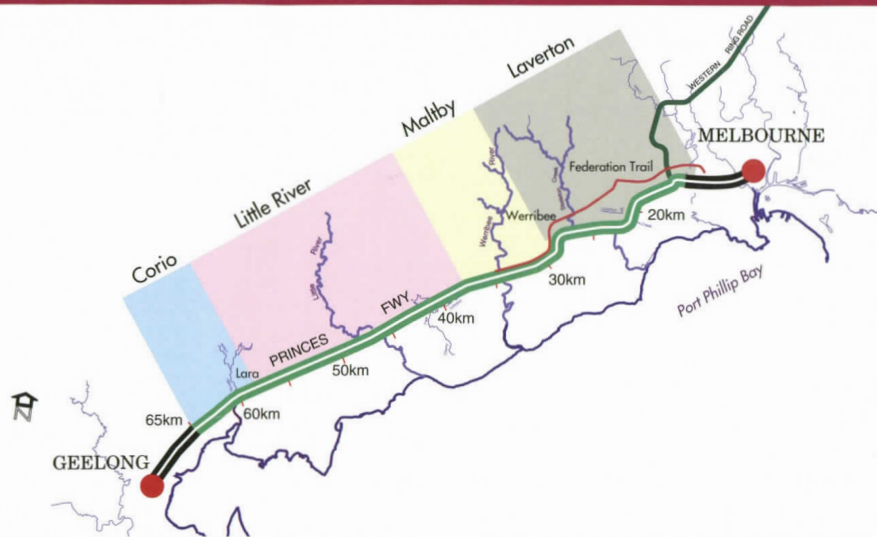


**M1
Geelong Road Project
Corio Section**

No.1 November 1999

A joint State and Federal Government funded Project





The Geelong Road (Princes Freeway) is to be redeveloped as a high standard freeway extending for 55 km from the Western Ring Road at Laverton North through to Corio, just north of Geelong. This \$237 million project is jointly funded by the State and Federal Governments as a Road of National Importance (RONI) Project.

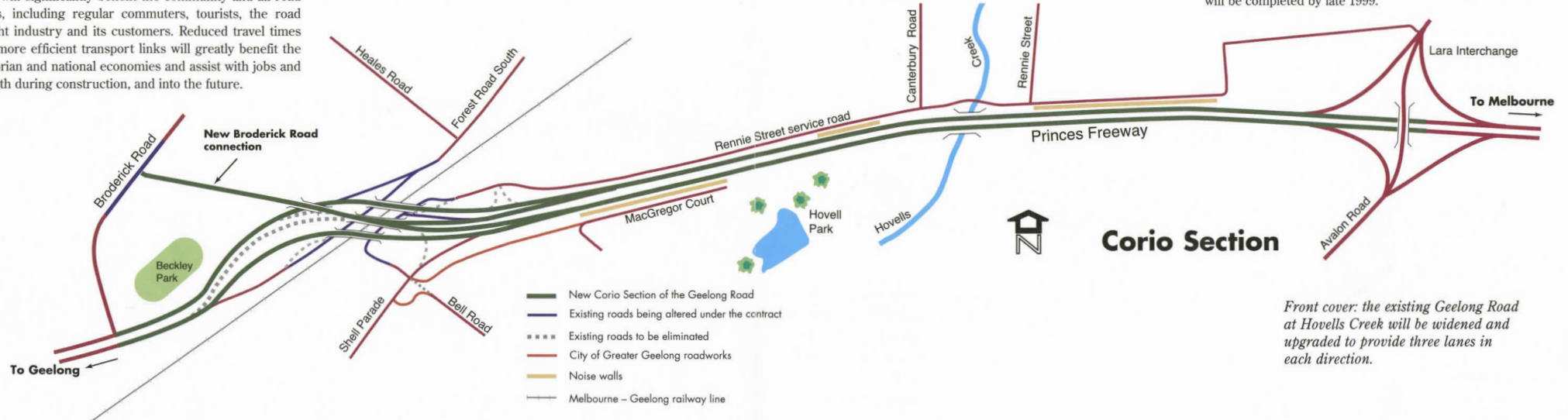
When fully completed in mid 2002, road users will enjoy a safer and smoother route with four lanes in each direction between the West Gate Bridge and Werribee and three lanes each way between Werribee and Geelong. The redevelopment of the Geelong Road will increase the safety and performance of the road and will cater for present and future traffic needs.

This will significantly benefit the community and all road users, including regular commuters, tourists, the road freight industry and its customers. Reduced travel times and more efficient transport links will greatly benefit the Victorian and national economies and assist with jobs and growth during construction, and into the future.

VicRoads is managing the project on behalf of the State and Federal Governments with separate design and construct contracts to be awarded for the four major road construction packages.

The four construction packages are:

- Corio Section - Corio to Lara
- Little River Section - Lara to Werribee
- Maltby Section - Maltby Bypass
- Laverton Section - Werribee to Western Ring Road



Front cover: the existing Geelong Road at Hovells Creek will be widened and upgraded to provide three lanes in each direction.

A fifth contract will be awarded to build a new 23 km recreational path, to be known as Federation Trail, extending from the existing Western Ring Path at Laverton North to the Werribee River. The path will provide a dedicated and safe route for cyclists and pedestrians and will also be completed in mid 2002.

From Werribee River to the Corio interchange, cyclists will continue to ride on the freeway shoulders which will generally be widened and improved to provide smoother and safer conditions.

All construction contracts will commence within six to eight months.

This bulletin details specific information and current issues of interest for the Corio Section, which is the first stage of works for the Geelong Road redevelopment.

A new two lane carriageway which could ultimately be upgraded to a four lane divided road will connect Broderick Road and Geelong Road. This will utilise the existing Corio overpass and a new bridge will carry the link over the Melbourne-bound freeway lanes. In the future the Broderick Road connection may form part of the proposed Geelong Outer Ring Road.

Access Alterations

The redevelopment of the Corio interchange will require alterations to current access arrangements. On the Geelong-bound carriageway the Shell Parade off-ramp will be retained but the existing on-ramp will be closed. This ramp carries very low traffic volumes and cannot be provided for safely within the new interchange layout.

Access from Shell Parade beneath the Corio overpass to the Rennie Street service road will be retained. The connection between the Rennie Street service road and the Melbourne-bound carriageway will be relocated closer to the railway line to provide safer traffic merging. The Melbourne-bound off-ramp to the Rennie Street service road will be closed as it cannot be provided for safely and carries low traffic volumes.

A new intersection will be constructed where the Geelong Outer Ring Road connects with Broderick Road. This will provide better access for the Heales Road industrial area and the racetrack.

Improvements will be made to Forest Road in the vicinity of the Corio Overpass where a section of the road requires straightening.

The City of Greater Geelong is constructing a new road to connect MacGregor Court with Shell Parade, and a new connection from Bell Road to Shell Parade. These works will be completed by late 1999.

Corio Section - Access and Features

Construction of the 6 km Corio Section will commence in December 1999 and is scheduled for completion in early 2002.

Works will extend from the Lara interchange through to Broderick Road and include construction of new freeway carriageways with three lanes in each direction. New bridges will carry the freeway over the railway line.

A third lane will be added on the Geelong-bound carriageway between the Lara Interchange and the Corio Overpass. Existing traffic lanes and emergency stopping lanes will be re-built.

Freeway standard lighting and signing will be incorporated into the redeveloped Corio interchange. The Geelong-bound bridge at Hovells Creek will be widened to include a third lane.

Corio Section