

## Media Release

### West Gate Tunnel Project good for Victorian business

**Melbourne, 3 April 2017** – The Andrews Government’s West Gate Tunnel Project announcement has been welcomed by the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC).

“The West Gate Tunnel Project is good news for productivity; it’s good for the business sector and, ultimately, it’s good for all Victorians,” said VACC Executive Director, Geoff Gwilym.

“The West Gate Tunnel Project, and the development of heavy vehicle infrastructure, will become an important legacy for Victoria. The far sighted planning and consultation, which has already been conducted, and the soon-to-begin implementation will secure benefits for the state that will last for generations.”

The heavy vehicle and freight sectors, which play a pivotal role in servicing all Victorians, will benefit from time and money savings by avoiding 17 sets of traffic lights and by experiencing less vehicle wear and tear on their way in and out of the Port of Melbourne.

When the project is completed in 2022, heavy vehicles will have access to Melbourne’s busy Port via a dedicated new route and tunnel, which will keep thousands of trucks off densely populated inner suburban streets each day.

“The West Gate Tunnel Project balances the interests of residents, the transport industry, and Victorian business particularly well,” said Mr Gwilym.

Communities in Melbourne’s inner west will see their quality of life improved, with a 24/7 heavy vehicle ban on busy streets in Yarraville and Footscray that will bring improved safety, reduced noise and improved air quality, while lessening commuter travel times into the CBD by up to 20 minutes.

“VACC congratulates the Andrews Government on announcing this major project, which will deliver meaningful change to residents in Melbourne’s inner west; Victorian motorists traveling through and around Melbourne; our vital heavy vehicle and freight sectors; and to business all over the state, with improved productivity, shorter travel times and more on-time deliveries,” said Mr Gwilym.

The Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, said the project would create 6,000 jobs.

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