



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Minister for Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development
and Local Government
Leader of the House

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19/5/09	MA.

24 APR 2009

Reference: 02768-2009

The Hon Tim Pallas MP
Minister for Roads and Ports
GPO Box 2797
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Minister

I am pleased to advise that I have approved \$5.7 million of (capped) funding to Victoria, for the construction of a new decoupling bay on the Western Highway in Nhill. A copy of the Project Approval Instrument is attached for your information.

Your Department is required to report to my Department on progress and costs of the project, including information on the number of direct and indirect jobs, which have been created by the project. My Department will contact your Department on timing of payments and how progress is to be monitored. Given the current economic downturn, you will appreciate that I am keen to see the project implemented as quickly as possible. Consistent with the first funding round, I have offered the Australian Government funding in 2009-10. Please advise me immediately if the project experiences delays that will impact on this timetable.

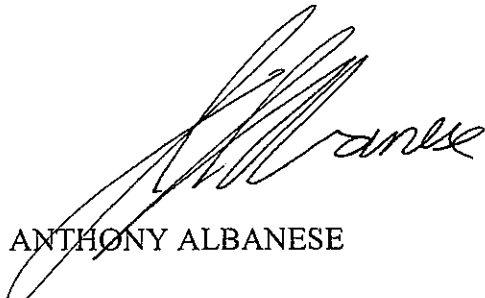
If savings should occur, the savings or any interest earned from Australian Government funds held by Victoria may be expended on other projects within the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP), subject to the agreement of the Australian Government.

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the Victorian Department of Transport is required to liaise with relevant environmental agencies to identify environmental and/or heritage issues that need to be addressed. Any matters of national environmental or heritage significance must be referred to the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts.

I expect the Government to invite further submissions later this year for the second round of \$40 million available under the HVSPP for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

I look forward to working with you on this program.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Albanese', written in a cursive style.

ANTHONY ALBANESE

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