

Advocacy Priority:

The Nagambie Freight and Industry Connector



Overview

The Nagambie Freight and Industry Connector is a transformative infrastructure project that will enhance freight efficiency, community safety, and liveability across Strathbogie Shire.

It is designed to meet the region's growing industrial demands while preserving the character of Nagambie's residential and tourist areas by diverting heavy vehicles away from the town centre.

By leveraging existing brownfield corridors, the project minimises environmental impact and delivers a cost-effective, future-ready solution that balances growth with sustainability.

Council is seeking \$250,000 in initial funding to complete concept and detailed designs, and a further \$30 million to construct the bypass. This investment will unlock economic, social, and environmental benefits for the region and contribute to a more resilient and efficient Victorian freight network.

The Problem

Heavy vehicle traffic currently passes directly through Nagambie's town centre, creating significant challenges for residents, businesses, and visitors. Local roads—many of which remain unsealed or inadequate for high freight volumes—are experiencing increasing degradation, congestion, and safety concerns due to rising industrial activity and freight movement.

The town's popularity as a regional tourism destination, its proximity to the Hume Freeway, and its strategic location between Melbourne and Shepparton mean that the transport network is under growing pressure. Without intervention, heavy vehicle movement will continue to compromise pedestrian safety, reduce the appeal of the town centre, and hinder both tourism and residential development.

In addition, key roads such as Habel, McDonald, and Ballantynes require significant upgrades to support current and future freight needs. Many areas are subject to flooding risks, further compounding safety issues and complicating emergency access during extreme weather events.

The Solution

The proposed Nagambie Freight and Industry Connector will divert heavy vehicle traffic from residential streets and the town centre onto a designated freight corridor. This corridor will strengthen links between the Nagambie industrial area, regional farms, and arterial routes leading to Melbourne and northern Victoria.



The project will be delivered in two stages: an initial phase focused on preliminary design and stakeholder consultation—including engagement with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority—followed by a detailed design and delivery phase.

Wherever possible, existing transport corridors will be leveraged, ensuring that new construction is both efficient and environmentally responsible. Road widening, sealing, and intersection upgrades will be completed to support safe and effective freight movement, while new flood mitigation measures will enhance the resilience of the network.

The Benefit

The benefits of the Nagambie Freight and Industry Connector will be felt across the region. Economically, the project will improve freight reliability and logistics efficiency, supporting local producers, manufacturers,

and businesses. It will help unlock land for industrial expansion, encouraging investment and job creation in Nagambie and the broader region. By improving connections to Melbourne and Shepparton, the project will enhance access to markets and reinforce the strategic value of the Hume corridor.

Socially, the bypass will dramatically improve safety for residents and visitors. By removing heavy trucks from residential streets, the project will reduce the risk of accidents, lower noise levels, and make the town centre more accessible for pedestrians, cyclists, and tourists. This will significantly enhance liveability, support the growth of local tourism, and increase community satisfaction and wellbeing.

Environmentally, the use of brownfield alignments minimises land disturbance and preserves the Shire's natural landscapes. The removal of trucks from the town centre will reduce local air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, while road upgrades

will improve stormwater management and flood resilience.

Conclusion

The Nagambie Freight and Industry Connector is a vital investment in the future of Strathbogie Shire and the broader region. It responds to immediate infrastructure pressures while unlocking long-term economic and community benefits.

By separating freight from residential traffic, this project delivers safer roads, supports regional productivity, and strengthens the liveability of one of Victoria's most picturesque towns. With planning ready to proceed and strong alignment with state and federal infrastructure goals, this is a shovel-ready opportunity that will deliver lasting returns for government, industry, and community alike.

Strathbogie Shire is *Investing in Tomorrow* — and we are ready to connect.