



MEDIA RELEASE

28 August, 2017

VTA welcomes West Gate Tunnel toll incentives

A requirement for the operator of the proposed West Gate Tunnel to offer financial incentives and discounts for freight operators that use the new connection will encourage heavy vehicles to use the road, creating productivity improvements for operators and amenity gains for residents of Melbourne's inner west.

Victorian Roads Minister Luke Donnellan today announced the Government will provide further incentives for the transport and logistics industry to use the West Gate Tunnel when the road is built in the form of discounted shuttle rates, caps on maximum daily tolls for trucks making multiple trips through the tunnel, and night time discounts.

"We are pleased that the Victorian Government has listened to the VTA's consistent calls for heavy vehicle operators to be incentivised to use toll roads like the West Gate Tunnel," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"The transport industry has been hit with substantial increases to tolls and infrastructure costs at the Port of Melbourne this year, so it is encouraging that steps are being taken by the Government to ensure heavy vehicle operators are not penalised for using toll roads.

"Whilst permanent 24/7 bans on trucks travelling through Blackshaws and Hudsons Road form part of today's announcement, they will be more than offset by the productivity gains that will be realised from giving operators a financial incentive to use the West Gate Tunnel," Mr Anderson said.

"The trade-off is also welcome because it demonstrates that the Victorian Government understands it cannot simply take something away from the industry without compensating for it in some other way.

"In this case, there will be new restrictions on trucks using certain roads, however the benefits that will flow from incentivising them to use the toll road is ample compensation, and is the kind of thinking that must be applied to other situations where the industry is asked to make substantial sacrifices," Mr Anderson said.

Heavy vehicle operators are encouraged to contact the VTA with any queries about how they may be impacted by today's announcement.

Ends...

**For the latest VTA news follow us on Twitter [@VTAComms](#)
For further information please contact Brian O'Neil on 0411 055 284.**