

2011-2012 Assessment Brief

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| Recommended Status: | Ready to Proceed – 2011-12 Victorian projects |
| Status in June 2011 Report to COAG: | Ready to Proceed |
| Initiative Name: | National Managed Motorways Program |
| Geography: | Victoria, Queensland and South Australia |
| Proponent: | State Governments of Victoria, Queensland and South Australia |
| Project description: | |
| <p>The national managed motorways program is an initiative aimed at improving transport flows in Australia's capital cities.</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>The program seeks to incorporate intelligent transport solutions comprising information, communication and control systems, into urban motorway networks. These 'smart' systems are designed to improve the operational performance of existing transport assets.</p> <p>Problem</p> <p>Key challenges highlighted in the 2010/11 National Managed Motorways Vision and Action Plan include: increasing and unconstrained demand on motorways (resulting in congestion); and uncontrolled motorway operations (impacting on traffic flow and safety).</p> <p>Solution</p> <p>The 2011/12 National Managed Motorways Program submission includes a set of jointly recognised projects for funding consideration as identified by the National Managed Motorways Working Group.</p> <p>The submission includes updated information for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria (Monash Freeway) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. High Street to Warrigal Road – BCR 11.5 - Seeking full cost of \$14.3 million b. Warrigal Road to Clyde Road – BCR 6.9 - Seeking full cost of \$100.7 million <p>Note that submissions were also provided for projects in Queensland and South Australia, which have been assessed at Real Potential and Early Stage.</p> | |
| Proponent's capital cost estimate (\$million, nominal): | Total: \$115 million |
| Contribution sought by Proponent including requests for project development funding (\$million): | Total: \$115 million |
| Project timing Start/Completion by Proponent (month/year): | All projects scheduled to commence in 2012/13 and be completed by end 2014 |

Strategic alignment

Infrastructure Australia has previously recognised the national managed motorways program as a nationally significant initiative. The program is closely aligned with Infrastructure Australia's strategic priority of improving productivity through better use of existing infrastructure assets.

Problem analysis

The program is focused on addressing congestion in major cities and the high costs associated with road capacity augmentation solutions. The Office of the Infrastructure Coordinator has previously concluded that the program has adequately identified current problems facing the motorway system.

A set of specific projects have now been submitted for consideration. The national managed motorways working group has identified appropriate target areas and projects. The Office supports the working group's conclusions regarding the analysis of problems on specific stretches of road.

Solution assessment

Options analysis:

By virtue of the nature of the program, all projects involve the use of intelligent transport systems. The five projects presented in the current submission cover a range of solutions, including variable speed limits and lane use management (Victoria), base level intelligent transport solutions (Queensland), and hard shoulder running (South Australia).

Alternative solutions have not been considered at the individual project level as they fall outside the scope of the program. However, given the endorsement of the program as a 'better use' initiative, it is recommended that the working group's advice is accepted as to the appropriateness of the technical solution for each project.

Project prioritisation:

The working group has ranked projects as Merit 1 to 5 or Future Priority. The projects submitted have different rankings and it is therefore recommended that they are placed in different stages of readiness on the priority list.

- Victoria - Monash Freeway (High Street to Warrigal Road) and Monash Freeway (Warrigal Road to Clyde Road), ranked merit one and two:
 - These projects ranked second and fourth among Victoria's projects (first priority has already been funded).
 - Victoria proposes to defer the third priority in favour of implementing a longer contiguous managed motorway corridor.

Deliverability:

The Monash Freeway projects (Victoria) are reasonably well developed in terms of risk assessment and cost estimation. Further work is required in order to better define the potential cost implications of risk.

While submissions propose governance structures for individual project implementation, little information is provided around the governance of the program at the national level or on whether a nationally consistent approach to implementation and post program review exists. This would be beneficial given the range of projects and the pilot nature of some of these solutions.

BCR appraisal

The projects have high estimated BCRs of 6.9 and 11.5. There is sufficient information to have confidence that the benefit cost ratio for projects in the program are generally comfortably above 1.

Infrastructure Australia Priority List Recommendation

Infrastructure Australia has previously endorsed the national managed motorways program as a nationally significant initiative. The program is closely aligned with Infrastructure Australia's strategic priority of improving productivity through better use of existing infrastructure assets.

The Office of the Infrastructure Coordinator recommends that:

- The national managed motorways program remains on the infrastructure priority list at **Ready to Proceed**.
- Two projects on Victoria's Monash Freeway - High Street to Warrigal Road and Warrigal Road to Clyde Road - are included on the priority list at **Ready to Proceed**.

Figure 1: National Managed Motorway Projects

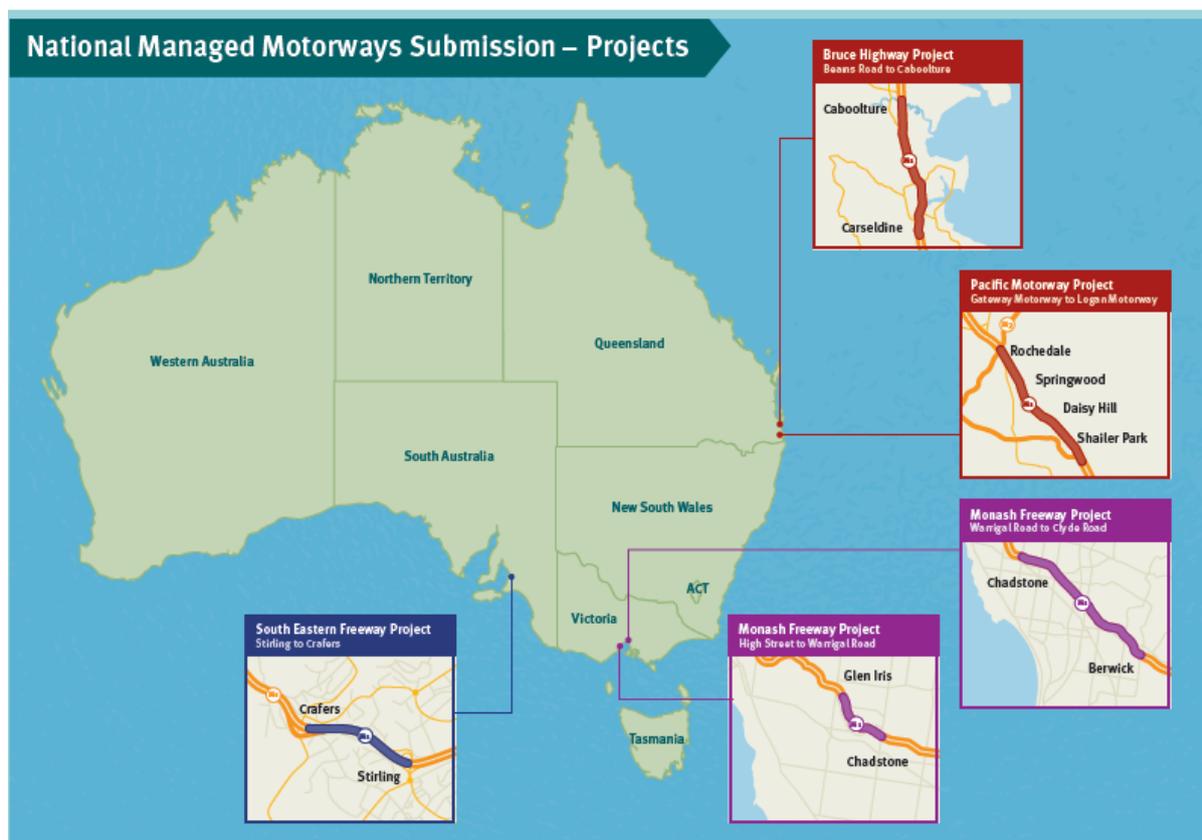
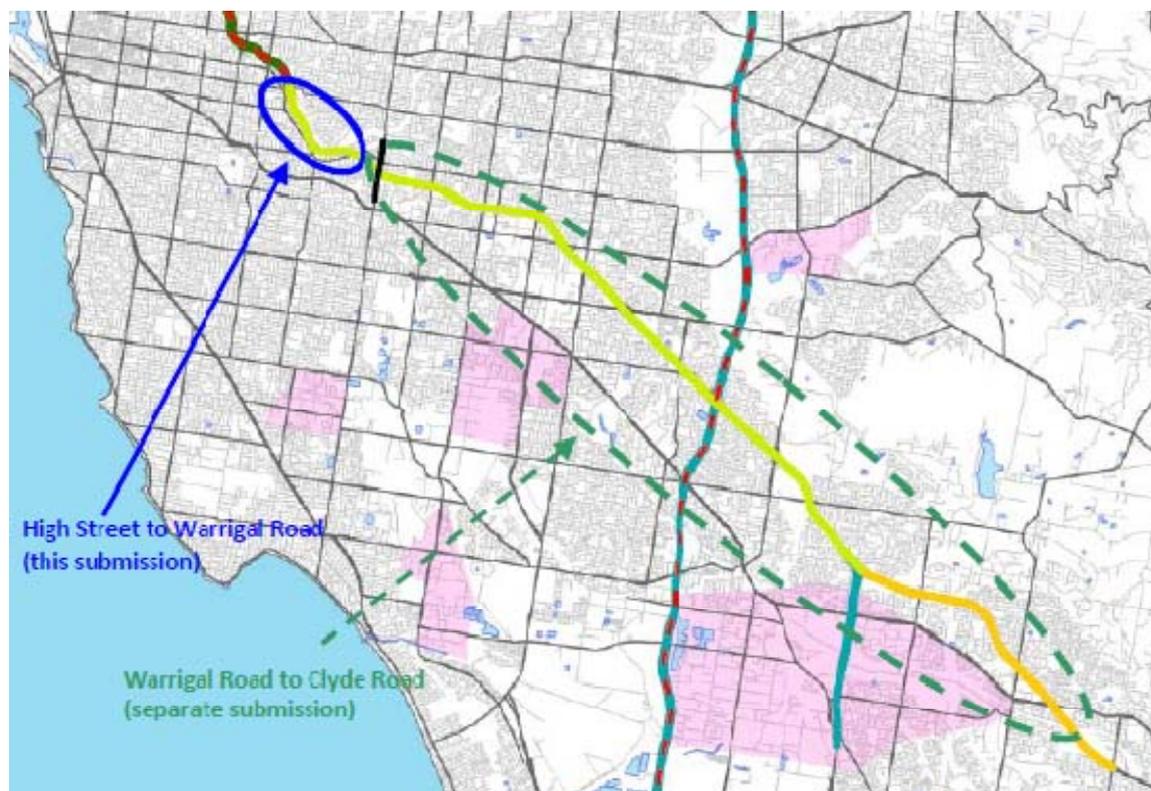


Figure 4: Monash Freeway – High Street to Warrigal Road



This assessment was prepared by the Office of the Infrastructure Coordinator in April 2012 for the Infrastructure Priority List.

Figure 5: Monash Freeway –Warrigal Road to Clyde Road

