



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Roads and Ports

Tuesday, 26 January, 2010

NEW LIGHTING WILL HAVE WEST GATE BRIDGE GLOWING

Lighting on the West Gate Bridge will be upgraded as part of the \$1.39 billion M1 project and bridge strengthening, boosting driver safety and enhancing the Melbourne skyline.

Roads and Ports Minister Tim Pallas announced the lighting upgrade today at the West Gate Bridge Strengthening Project offices and said new LED lights would not only improve visibility and safety, they would have Melburnians glowing with pride.

“The West Gate Bridge is now over 30 years old and is not only a vital link between the city and Melbourne’s west, but a prominent feature of our great city and state,” Mr Pallas said.

“Replacing the lighting will illuminate our premier bridge and ensure it continues to be a fitting symbol of one of the world’s most liveable cities.

“While the vital bridge strengthening project is ensuring the long term sustainability of the structure and increasing traffic capacity, it also represents an opportunity to improve bridge safety and visibility.

“The project will strengthen the bridge to deliver five lanes of traffic in each direction and new barriers to improve traffic flow and enhance public safety.”

Mr Pallas said the lighting scheme was developed by internationally renowned architecture firm, Wilkinson Eyre Architects and would be easier and safer to maintain than the current lighting.

“The lighting scheme will feature illumination along the bridge deck, illuminated cable stays and a brighter glow from the tall light poles that run through the middle of the structure,” he said.

“The LED lights along the cable stays and deck edge will be programmed by computer and can shine in a number of different colours.”

Mr Pallas today also released a new fly-through animation of the illuminated bridge, which features the final design of the new public safety barriers.

He said preliminary work had started on the barriers, out of sight of motorists, with external construction work to begin around the middle of this year and expected to be completed by the end of 2010.

“Motorists will need to obey the traffic advice when driving in the vicinity of the West Gate Bridge over the next 12 months, as there are hundreds of construction workers inside and underneath the structure and we need to ensure their safety as they carry out this important work,” he said.

The West Gate Bridge Strengthening Project is part of the \$1.39 billion Monash-CityLink-West Gate (M1) Upgrade.

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