



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **VTA supports Monash Freeway trial to improve safety and productivity**

The Victorian Transport Association has thrown its support behind a trial on the Monash Freeway intended to improve productivity for heavy vehicle operators and safety for all motorists by restricting use of the right-hand lane by trucks on certain parts of the freeway.

As part of the nine-month trial starting in February, heavy vehicles travelling in both directions on the Monash will be restricted from using the far right-hand lane between Huntingdale Road, Mount Waverly and Jacksons Road, Noble Park.

“The Monash Freeway is the most heavily used road in Victoria by trucks travelling between Melbourne’s south east and through to other parts of the state, and it is vital that measures to improve productivity are implemented to keep the freeway safe and efficient for all road users,” said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

“We supported the dynamic speed trials on the Monash last year for similar reasons that we support this latest trial because any measure that can potentially reduce costs and improve safety for operators is good for business and well worth trying,” he said.

Over 200,000 trips are made by drivers on the Monash Freeway each day, with 40,000 of those made by heavy vehicles.

Mr Anderson said the restrictions would inevitably lead to a higher concentration of heavy vehicles in the middle lanes of the freeway and that it is essential passenger vehicle drivers adjust their behaviour to keep the roads safe.

“Eighty per cent of all vehicle collisions are either side-to-side or nose-to-tail and trucks are not always at fault,” Mr Anderson said.

“Car drivers must remember that trucks require considerably greater stopping distances so they must leave a safe distance between themselves and other vehicles, refrain from excessive lane changing, and never cut off a heavy vehicle,” Mr Anderson said.

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