

ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/25 PROPOSAL #7:

TRARALGON BYPASS

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in road infrastructure to get our community home safely and reduce congestion on our road network.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both the state and federal governments to invest in the Traralgon Bypass as a crucial step in addressing local traffic congestion and safety issues.

The Traralgon Bypass was recognised as a priority many years ago. It aims to divert heavy vehicles and through traffic away from the increasingly busy town centre.

As the largest town in a road freight-dependent region, we need a safe and efficient link to accommodate Gippsland's growing communities.

Extensive groundwork conducted by VicRoads in the 2000s included preliminary road designs and assessments covering various aspects such as flora, fauna, economics, land use, and cultural heritage. These efforts led to the formal inclusion of the bypass route in the Latrobe Planning Scheme in 2009, along with a subsequent commitment of \$1.4 million by the state government in 2017 for bypass planning.

Further planning endeavours facilitated by Regional Roads Victoria involved community feedback on route preferences and interchange locations. The resulting study comprehensively analysed the economic, environmental, social, and traffic impacts of the proposed bypass. However, progress has been hindered by concerns regarding the proximity of the bypass to the Loy Yang mine and potential implications for rehabilitation efforts. With the scheduled closure of the Loy Yang mine now confirmed for 2035, we are calling on the federal government to prioritise this project.

The Traralgon Bypass is integral to the industry's needs and is highlighted as the highest priority in the Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Master Plan commissioned by Regional Development Australia.

We are confident that this project aligns with the priorities of the federal government to deliver infrastructure that improves productivity and resilience.

We are calling for:

The state and federal governments to partner with us to commit to a delivery timeline for the Traralgon Bypass.

